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HISTORY  
OF  
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John E. Pritchard.

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Maxwell

October 1895

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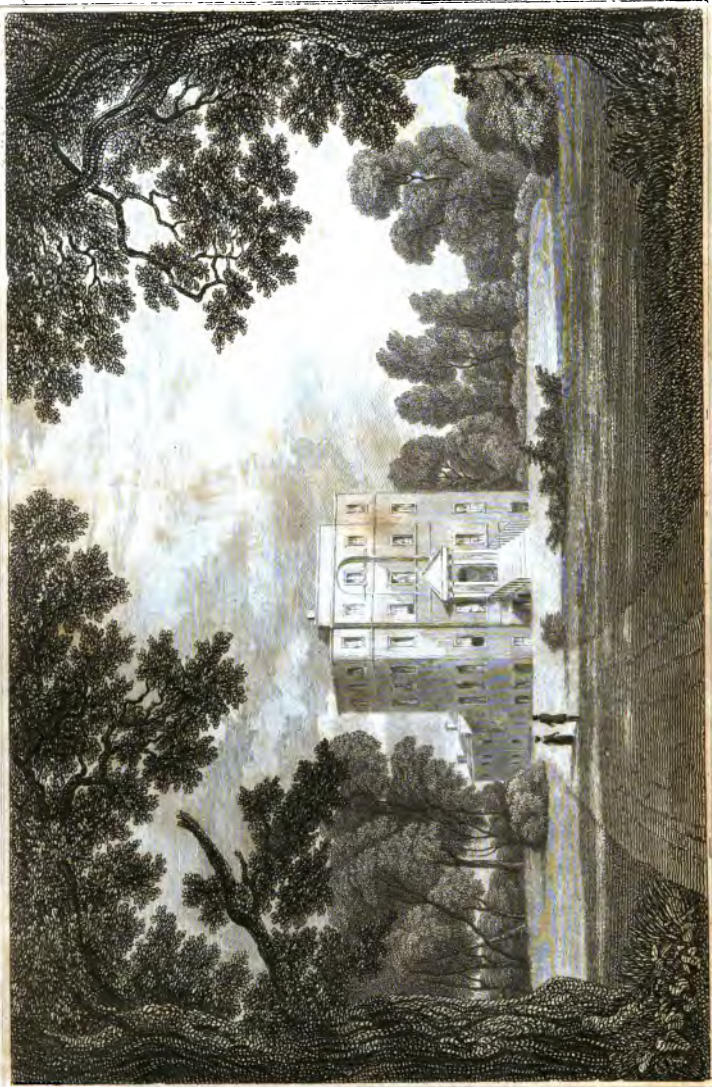


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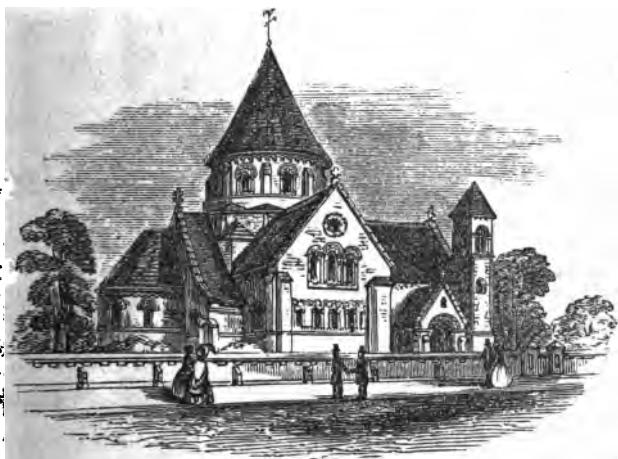


TO THE REV. RICHARD SKIDMORE.

# NORMAN'S History of Cheltenham,

(WITH EIGHTY ILLUSTRATIONS.)

BY  
JOHN GODING.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHELTENHAM.

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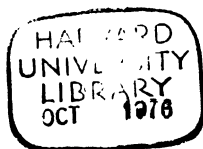
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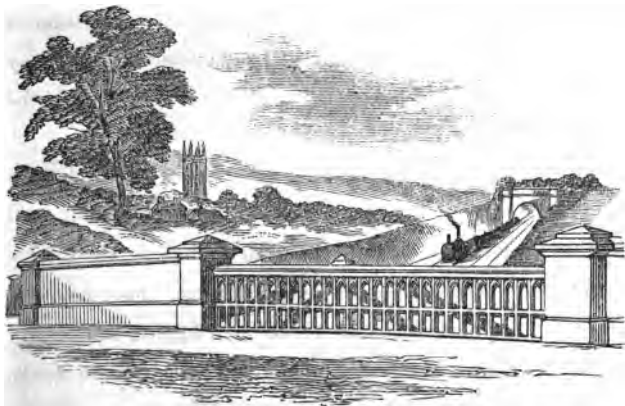


**I**N bringing before the public this revised and enlarged edition of the "History of Cheltenham," the publisher believes he is supplying a want which has long been felt. The former edition having been for some years out of print, the work has become exceedingly rare and valuable. It has now been entirely re-written and re-arranged, under the personal supervision of Mr. Goding, who has been enabled to add extracts from many valuable documents which were not available at the date of the former edition.

The quantity of new matter thus added, and the introduction of between eighty and ninety views in lithography and wood engraving,—while considerably adding to the bulk of the volume and the consequent expense of bringing it out,—have rendered the work of far more value as a book of reference, and greatly increased its interest to the general reader. It extends to nearly seven hundred pages, and comprises the History of the Town and Neighbourhood, from the dates of the earliest Records to

the present Time. It embodies a number of rare and interesting documents—extracts from Domesday Book, from old Charters, from the Archives of Royal and Noble families connected with the Town, and from Ancient Parish Records—and will be, in fact, a complete and authentic Record of the Town of Cheltenham through every era of its History.

In order to place more clearly before the reader a consecutive narrative of the History of the Town, a Chapter of “Chronological Events” has been added, extending to nearly one hundred pages of closely printed matter. This Chronology has been compiled expressly for the present publication; and while affording a convenient index to the events narrated in detail in the body of the work, it will form of itself a complete photograph of the leading occurrences in the town’s history, especially during its extraordinary development in the present century.



MAUDE'S ELM AND CHRIST CHURCH FROM SWINDON BRIDGE.

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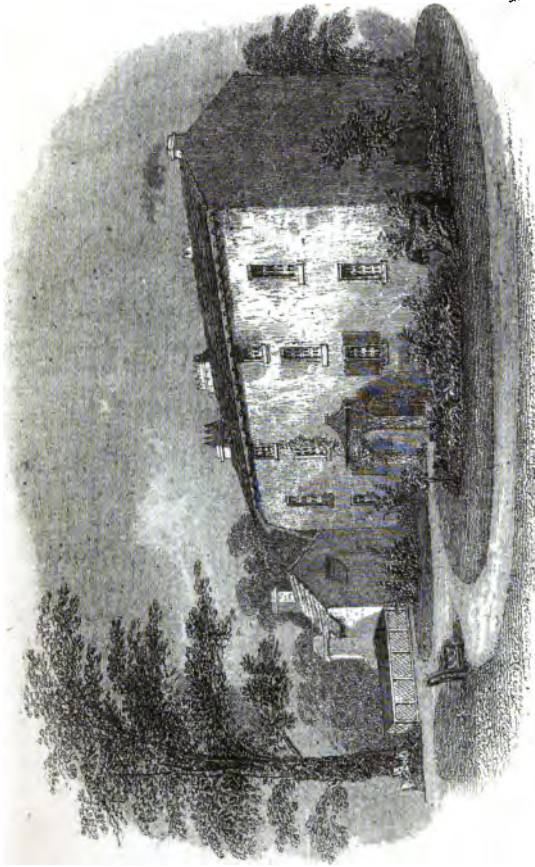
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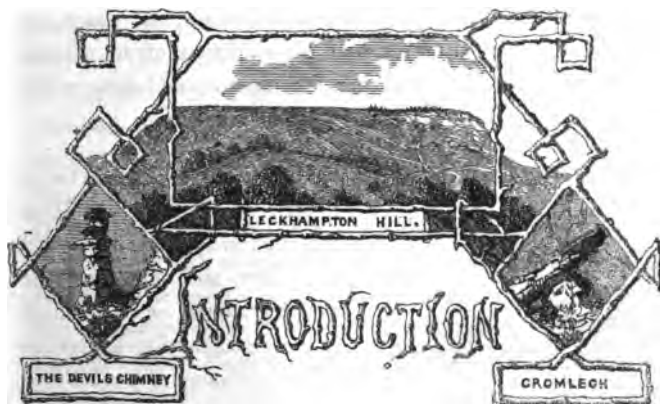






*Alpha House, Pains Hill, Cheltenham?*

*The House where Dr Jenner first Practised Vaccination (about 1780)*



IN the HISTORY OF CHELTENHAM, as narrated in the following pages, the author has commenced his researches at the earliest period of which we have any written records. He has also availed himself of the light which has been thrown upon the subject by the remains which have been from time to time exhumed of those bygone races who were either the aboriginal possessors of the soil, or the conquerors by whom those primitive people were driven out and supplanted. Thus in the preliminary chapters on the "BRITISH PERIOD" and the "ROMAN PERIOD," he has collected together all the authentic information, which has been handed down to us, of the state of this particular part of the country during those remote eras ; and he has carried the history during each successive epoch up to the present time.

In allusion to the more recent periods of this history—say that embraced within the last few hundred years—it may not be uninteresting to the reader to summarize in this introductory chapter a few of the leading incidents in the past history of this beautiful

town ;—a town which has sprung as if by magic, and within the memory of living witnesses, from the condition of an obscure village, into a state of expansion and prosperity and beauty, which is not surpassed by any town in the united kingdom.

A visitor to Cheltenham, some few years ago, would have found



in the centre of the present High Street, a running stream, crossed every here and there by rude stepping-stones, as represented in the accompanying engraving.

The testimony of persons now living, together with official documents, most unquestionably prove, that less than a century since, the town presented all the appearance of a straggling

village. The parish register at this period records but three or four deaths and christenings annually, and there are aged inhabitants yet surviving who can repeat by rote all the once occupiers of houses in the town! A more retired, rural, and unfrequented place was not to be found in England, than Cheltenham prior to the discovery of the mineral waters, and the establishment of the Spas as places of public resort. The transformation which that discovery has brought about is certainly one of the most striking facts in modern topography. But the suddenness of these changes, and our familiarity with the incidents which have accompanied them, have led to an impression among the public generally, that Cheltenham, from its being only an obscure hamlet within the memory of the living, never had a more distinguished existence in remoter



periods. The facts which we shall here adduce will serve to disabuse the public mind of this too common error. Years of diligent study of the many local and national documents and histories, united with a knowledge of the various relics of antiquity which have been discovered in and around the town, have clearly demonstrated to us that Cheltenham is a place of great antiquity, and that it formerly enjoyed chartered privileges to an extent not surpassed by any other rural town in Great Britain. The result of our investigation has established the fact, that the history of the town is one of no common or monotonous kind, but that it abounds in incidents as interesting as they are numerous and diversified. Our evidences show that the account of the borough is capable of being traced out for the past eighteen centuries—from the periods when the rude pastoral Briton, and the war-like Roman, made it their temporary abode, down to its occupancy by the *haut ton* of the present day. So early as the ninth century, Cheltenham possessed a Priory, and two centuries later it had an endowed Church. From the palmy days of Henry III., down to the chaotic reign of Henry VIII., the town gave birth and name to several learned natives—the famous De Cheltenham family. The history of the Manor commences with the eleventh century. At that remote era, it was chartered, and many and important have been the rights and privileges which it enjoyed through the various periods of time downwards. It had laws which the general Acts of the land could not affect; it had a Coroner, a Civil Court, two Parliamentary representatives, and right of trying and punishing all criminals within the manorial district. Both by purchase and hereditary right, the Cheltenham Manor has been possessed by Kings and Queens, and by individuals greatly celebrated for

deeds and abilities, which are amply recorded in the annals of the past.



With the history of the civil wars of the Commonwealth era, the town is moreover allied. It was then an important station of the royalists, and by them was garrisoned. The gallant defence of the place against the republicans, caused it to be the scene of a decisive, and there is reason to believe, of a bloody engagement.

In the history of the ancient trade of England, Cheltenham also takes a prominent part, having been at one period famed for its extensive tobacco plantations, and its markets for wool and corn.

From the reign of King Edward the Confessor, with but little exception, Cheltenham was a very important place, and connected in various ways with personages and institutions of distinguished fame. It maintained its consequence until the latter end of the seventeenth century, when, from the joint effects of the Dissolution of Monasteries, and of that dread enemy to man—War, it gradually fell into that state of decay and obscurity in which it was found at the discovery of its mineral waters about a century ago. In all human probability it would have continued to this day in that obsolete condition, had not Providence ordained that these health-restoring springs should be brought to light, and their virtues applied to remove the bitter sting of affliction.



## A Chapter of Antiquities.

---

SO far we have given an outline of the written history of the town, as it will be found set forth at length in the following pages: but there is beside this an UNWRITTEN HISTORY of the locality in which we live; the incidents of which can only be deduced from the researches of science, and the epoch of which extends far back into the remote ages of the past, long ere the era of human records, and long ere the region we now inhabit was accustomed to the tread of human footsteps. Geologists tell us that at a certain remote period in the history of our planet, Leckhampton Hill, which rises



immediately above the town of Cheltenham, was a lofty cliff overlooking the sea; that this sea entirely covered the valleys which now extend from the Bristol Channel to the shores of Cheshire and Northumberland; that the hills in our immediate

neighbourhood—Bredon, Dumbleton, and Churchdown—were solitary islands rising out of this waste of waters, the westernmost shores of which were formed by the high lands, now known as the Malvern Hills and the Welsh Mountains. They tell us, too, that at the foot of Leckhampton Hill, and along the base of the adjoining eminence, known as Battle Down Hill, there stretched a muddy shore, washed by the waves and tides of this primæval ocean,—this mud being, in fact, the salt and impervious clay on which the southernmost portion of the town of Cheltenham at this moment stands! Geologists go on to inform us, that in the process of ages there occurred a mighty upheaving of the northern portion of this sea-bed, and that thus, being broken as it were into two, by a range of lofty hills, the lower portion of the sea became an estuary, running upwards through Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and Warwickshire, from the great ocean in the south.

STANDING on the summit of this hill, at the spot above



“THE DEVIL’S CHIMNEY” as represented in the annexed engraving, the fertile vale below gives striking evidence of these mighty changes. And it would seem that in the course of these upheavings there were strong and ever-shifting currents running from north to south, and carrying with them large quantities of *debris*, some of which lodged itself in its passage in the quiet bay which washed the base of Leckhampton Hill, and thus,

these currents and deposits may be traced the beds of gravel which occur in various localities in the neighbourhood, and



to the same causes also, as well as to the action of the waters upon the bases of the adjoining hills, are we indebted for that accumulation of sand which exists in the Cheltenham Basin, and through which percolates a never-failing supply of water for the use of its inhabitants !

It is indeed somewhat curious to reflect, that upon this now beautiful spot, where a noble town has reared itself—the renovator of health, and the resort of fashion—there should have existed, in that remote era, a “watering place” of quite another description—the resort of beings of a totally different character ! For we are told by these same Geologists that mighty “Elephants, Hippopotami, Bisons, and other gigantic mammalia, then tenanted these regions,” and we can almost fancy that at the very spot where we are now inditing this sentence—where beauty, wealth and fashion “love to congregate”—ages and ages ago, the unwieldly Hippopotamus took his afternoon bath and wallowed in the mud ! while the ponderous Elephant browsed in the adjoining forests ! and herds of Bisons grazed on the surrounding hills !



THE

# History of Cheltenham.

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## CHAP. I.

### The British Period.

THE number and variety of relics of the British race, which have from time to time been locally discovered, demonstrate that the site of the present Town of Cheltenham was known to the Aboriginal inhabitants of Britain. It must have been a spot fully formed by nature to suit that military and pastoral mixture of life which their own native writers ascribe to them. A high elevation of earth work for a camp in time of threatened invasion, and a verdant vale contiguous, with a supply of water for cattle, were what these primitive people required. And here their wants must have been amply supplied. Surrounded on every side by lofty hills which required little art to convert into fortresses, added to a valley watered by the pure stream of the meandering Chelt, it must have presented every inducement to the rude Briton to make it the place of his abode. The adoption of such spots as a settlement, led the Roman conqueror in after ages to apply the word *Dobuni*, as a designation, proper to denote, not only the habits of the inhabitants, but the geographical peculiarities of the soil which they occupied; a name which Martin affirms is derived from the British word "*Duffen*," which signifies low and deep, and alludes to the situation of those counties which consist chiefly of plains and valleys, and sunk under hills. Fosbrooke remarks "that Barrows adjacent, are obvious external tests discovered by simple observation; and that there were such settlements connected with the fortresses

mentioned we have every reason to suppose from analogy. That Cheltenham and the vale in the general, were occupied by the Britons, for the pasture of their cattle, is not only a presumption founded upon their known habits, but a reasonable inference from the Domesday accounts of the Anglo-Saxon era and the conclusions drawn from it." All the usual appendages of a British village—Barrows, burial places, animal bones, coins, pottery, and defensive weapons, have been here exhumed. In the town and the land which surrounds it, extending to, and including the adjoining hills, where these memorials of a Primitive age have been brought to light, they have been found in several instances associated with Roman and Saxon remains. This proves that the conqueror occupied the home of the conquered, an act which led to the gradual formation of a mixed race. This is apparent upon examining the construction of our local encampments. Some of them bear evident marks of having been first formed by the Briton, and afterwards raised and enlarged by the Roman. W. H. Gomonde, Esq., a local gentleman who has investigated the antiquities of the neighbourhood, and collected many valuable relics belonging to the town and environs, enumerates from personal observation the remains of two British and one Saxon village, four ancient burial places—British, Roman and Saxon—ten Barrows, five encampments, and two Roman villas.

At intervals, during the past half century, discoveries have been made which prove the existence of a British burial place in nearly the centre of the parish. The Old Workhouse lane led to a spot called "Paradise," where were located a few cottages in a hollow, surrounded by a bank by which flowed the Chelt. For a long period brick making was carried on here, and as the earth was excavated, urns, bones, flint arrow heads, and the usual contents of a Briton's sepulchre were brought to light.

This last resting place of the honoured dead was of the rudest possible character. The mound of earth, formed by nature, was hollowed out, and upright pieces of unhewn stone introduced. In one instance a kind of Cromlech was found which would seem to denote that it contained the remains of a person of note. This was discovered in July 1832. It was formed of three upright stones, making the three sides of the sepulchral chamber, and covered with a massive cap stone. "Within were found

a heap of broken urns and human bones burnt, stone implements, and fragments of personal ornaments." (Adams.) The cap stone formed a portion of a press used in the old cider mill at the Knapp, adjoining where it was exhumed, until the building was taken down, when it was purchased by the late Mr. C. H. Jessop, and deposited in his Nursery Gardens with other local antiquities. The other sepulchres appear to have been placed nearer the hills, and farther removed from the town. The march of improvement has now altered the spot where stood the one we have been detailing. In 1846, the present Great Western Station was erected over the site, and in order to make a good approach for traffic, the ravine was filled up with earth, and the original character of the locale for ever obliterated.

"On the hills at Cheltenham a rather low, but very extensive oblong mound, overgrown with fir trees, was a few years ago accidentally dug into at one end, and a small Cromlech was brought to light. From the appearance of the mound we are justified in supposing that one or more similar Cromleches yet remain uncovered in the parts that have not been touched" (Wright, 1852.)

"To the East is a field still remarkable for two Barrows of British origin, the one round, the other, called by Sir Richard Hoare, a long Barrow; both of these have been opened, the former by myself, the latter by Mr. Lysons. The firs that crown the top of the long Barrow, are visible from the Roman Villa, allowing the Roman inhabitant to have gratified his pride with a retrospect of the former prowess of his countrymen."

... "Under is a bronze fibula, found near the British Village under Cleeve Camp;" ... (the fibula was similar to the brooch now in use by ladies.) , . . "British coins, Boadicea, or Boduni, and two others" (Gomonde, 1849.)

"Fortunately, a tradition has been preserved, which, by inviting investigation, has led to the discovery of a British and Roman British settlement, which was the direct predecessor of Cheltenham, it being the custom to remove the place of residence to neighbouring valleys, for the greater convenience of water. The Warcescome about Withington stood in a field, now called by corruption, Wycombe. Remains of black pottery have been found. A circle also appears, and within this spot excavations were made, and stones were found, cut and worked

into heads, as if they had belonged to the frieze of a Temple. In a quarry, not far off, were discovered the bones of a Briton, the brass of a shield, six inches in diameter, and the head of a spear, seventeen inches in the blade, and nine inches in the socket. A hearth of floor known to be an appendage of British settlements, was also found. In November, 1824, I visited the site, in company with W. Lawrence, Esq., of Sandywell Park. The spear and brass, as well as numerous other coins found there, are in the possession of Mr. Lawrence" (Fosbrooke.)

The place where the adaptation of the British encampment by the Romans may be best studied, is at Nottingham Hill. J. F. Peacey, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Prescott, who resides near this spot, has frequently found British coffins and coins, and also Roman coins in the encampment. The steepest part of the hill is now being excavated for stone, and the original mound of the Britons, and the superstructure of the Romans, are laid bare to view. Portions of the bones of a Briton, and also a lance head, and a coin of Boduni, were obtained by the author from the lower mound of the hill in July, 1844, which had been rendered loose by the labours of the quarryman.

At length came the decline of the Primitive race and their subjugation, and ultimate amalgamation with a future generation. The defeat of Caractacus, the renowned British Chief, paved the way for the establishment of the Roman power among the Dobuni, and afterwards generally throughout the Island. This event occurred about half a century after the beginning of the Christian era. From this period the local occupants were Romans, and so long were they residents that there is hardly a nook in our vicinity where the spade or the plough has not turned up some archæological treasure of the civilizers of the West.

The Romans having been successful in defeating the Britons on their own shores, the latter were obliged to retreat inland. Togodumnus appears to have had the government of affairs of that portion of the British who lived in this district, and being a person highly obnoxious in the eyes of the Roman general, Plautius, that brave man in 43 attacked the British army and completely routed them from this county. The Romans took possession of all the encampments of the surrounding hills, and enlarged, altered, and generally converted them into Roman military stations. The additions made by the last occupiers show

great care and caution in securing watch towers and posts, and they may be easily discerned, even upon a cursory inspection.

We have now completed a review of the British period as it has been developed by the local discoveries that have been made. We have been speaking of the first known occupants of this island, and feel impressed with the social and domestic virtues and indomitable courage which they manifested. They lived where we now live ages before the glorious light of Christianity was kindled. When we contemplate the fragments of their heathen altars which lie scattered around us, we are reminded of the scenes enacted, when the priest and the people gathered together to offer sacrifice. These rude memorials may have met the eye of the first apostles of our faith as they journeyed hither from Gloucester in their pilgrimage of proselytism. The coins of that bravest of all British Queens—Boadicea, (collected by Mr. Gomonde), which are found in the neighbourhood, recall to memory the native military skill which our primitive ancestors possessed. They tell us of the time when the Briton, at the sound of wars alarm, hastily fled from his pastoral abode on the banks of the Chelt, and ascended to his camp on the nearest hill, there to prepare to defend his native home from the attack of a foreign power. The imagination may conjure up from their local graves the shades of these departed children of nature, whose forms were once witnessed. We may fancy we see the army of Rome marching on the site of our town, headed with the glittering eagle, and threatening captivity or death to all who dared to oppose their progress. The British camps around us speak their testimony to the fact that the invaders from the classic city, gained not their victory, except after a long and brave struggle on the part of the Briton to defend the land of his birth. But the conqueror and the conquered have long since passed away, and after a lapse of eighteen hundred years the inhabitants of Cheltenham may, by studying the local relics that have been upturned, compare the past with the present, and perceive that the Briton has "given place to another race of probably more enduring power and grandeur; and an age of greater peace and light has happily succeeded, wherein the mists of superstition are dispelled, and the usages of barbarism abandoned, and it is our more fortunate lot to speculate upon those which once might have claimed us for their subjects or their victims" (Thompson.)

## CHAP. II.

*The Roman Period.*

ROMAN power, laws, customs, and manners, had a local reign extending over a period of four hundred years. Vestiges of our Roman forefathers' creative genius and architectural abilities, still remain on the spot which they formerly occupied, after a lapse of ten centuries. The fashionable and wealthy residents of Cheltenham daily promenade on the same ground that was once tilled by the first conquerors of the primeval race, and beneath their feet they tread upon entombed monuments of Roman ingenuity. Like their British predecessors, the Romans selected the watered valley for cultivating the art of agricultural, with a contiguous upland mound for military purposes. This locality must have exactly suited their habits. It is therefore not a matter of surprise that so many discoveries of this once powerful nation should have been found, (and still continue to be found), in Cheltenham and its vicinity. The spot, ever fertile, must have presented attractions which strongly recommended it as a station. The Romans, as a matter of convenience, did not repair to hills and fortresses except in cases of emergency. Their favourite places were gentle knolls, commanding the adjacent valley, surrounded at a good distance by heights, by which they received communications and the earliest intelligence. If, in imagination, we carry ourselves back to the time when no modern dwellings studded the locality,—when from the hills around was to be seen one continued plain, watered by the purly stream of the Chelt, we can form an idea of how well the site of the present “Queen of Watering Places” must have been fitted for the mode of life practised by the sturdy Roman. “In selecting a site for their encampments, there is nothing that the Romans seem to have had a greater regard to, than the convenience of a river” (Horsley). Another reason why the place was so well adapted for their purpose was the contiguity of the main roads. “Immediately on Claudius gaining a footing

in this country, he set about the formation of grand military roads, for the purpose of conveying his troops and baggage, and he built a chain of fortresses along the line of the brow of the Cotswold Hills" (Lysons, *Romans in Gloucestershire*) The local Roman roads exist to this day in a most excellent state of preservation. The "Ermine Street," or the great highway which communicated Gloucester and Cirencester (the two chief cities at that time) with London, passes through Witcomb and Birdlip, and according to Wright, had branch roads connecting it with our own local encampments. The then inhabitants could also travel south and north. The Fosseway passed through Cirencester and the Cotswolds to Scotland. The Ickneild Street traversed the county and formed a route for marching into Wales. Other roads united with Lincoln in the north, and Exeter in the West, so that every facility was afforded for the means of transit in case of sudden attack from an invading army.

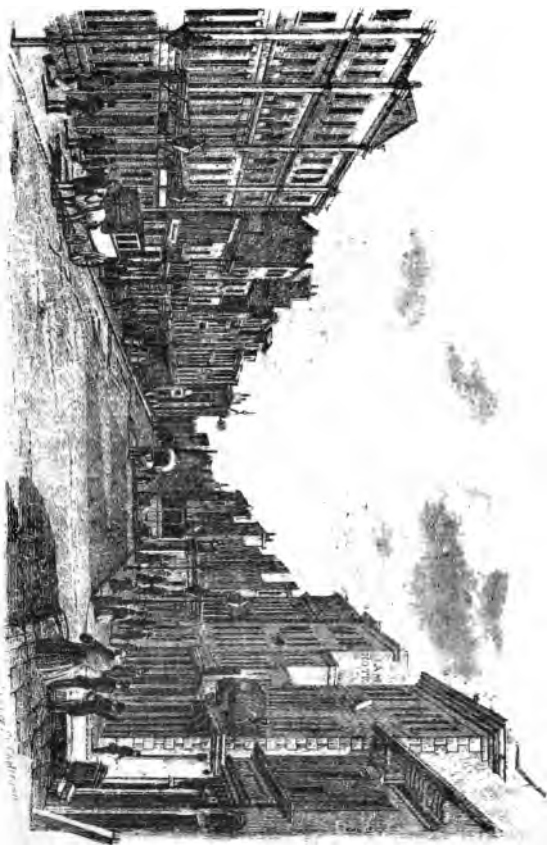
The coins that have been brought to light belong to some of the earliest as well as to the latest of Roman Emperors. This proves that the soil upon which the now fashionable town of Cheltenham is situate, was occupied by Pagan Romans as early as half a century after the Christian era. In 1816, while forming a drain beneath the Arched-buildings, in the High-street, the workmen found two Roman urns, filled with ashes, and many coins. In July, 1818, when some labourers were digging a hole for the reception of a post near the turnpike gate in the Bath-road, they met with a perfect jar, containing, it is conjectured, about a thousand Roman copper and silver coins, bearing impressions of different Emperors, and other devices. In 1845, a very perfect second brass coin of Constantine, having on its obverse a representation of Romulus and Remus sucking a wolf, was dug up in the market garden adjoining Sir Cornwallis Rickett's residence, "The Elms," and on the site of the present Church of England Training College. Along with it was found a gigantic tooth of a horse. During the past twenty-six years the author has collected eighty-three Roman coins which have been discovered during excavations for building purposes in various parts of the town. Mr. Gomonde gives the annexed lists of the names of the Emperor and Empress which occur on the coins found at Cheltenham in his possession up to the year 1849. On reference to them it will be seen that they include Claudius,



who reigned thirty years, and the tyrant Nero who reigned fifty years after the Birth of Christ. Thus clearly demonstrating the early occupancy of our locale by the invaders of Britain. "Antonia, Claudius, Nero, Julia Titi, Domitian, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Gallienus, Victorinus, Tetricus, Maximianus, Helena, Theodora, Carausius, Allectus, Licinius, Constantinus mag, Ditto gur, Constaus, Constantius, Fausta, Crispus, Delmatius, Julianus apos, Valentinianus, Valeus, Gratianus."

At the rear of Bays Hill Terrace, at that point of the Chelt which is now crossed by a wooden bridge, have been found the remains of a Villa rustica, with its bath. From the earliest date down to the present day this spot has been called "The Cold Bath," in consequence of a local tradition respecting its Roman origin. The works of our forefathers appear not to have become useless in this case until the last few years, for there are inhabitants who can yet remember when the Bath was publicly used. About twenty years since, Mr. Johnson, the owner of some adjacent property, erected a house upon a portion of the old ruins, and the banks of the river being raised at the same time, the villa and its hypocaust for ever disappeared from view. During the progress of these improvements many coins, bath tiles, tessellated pavement, and portions of pottery, were dug up, and are preserved by the author and other residents. From the following account in a Cheltenham guide, published in 1781, it would appear that this bath had been in general use. "At a distance of between two and three hundred yards from the Long Room, are the remains of a Cold Bath, close beside the Chelt, and originally supplied from its stream, which for many years was much resorted to." In 1847, one of the most important of our new drives was formed out of a very ancient lane. This was "Hale's Road," so named to commemorate the name of the originator of the scheme, Mr. C. Hale, who was then the parish surveyor. During the excavations a number of Roman coins were turned up by the workmen, including several Cæsers, and one of the Emperor Claudius, all of which are in the possession of Mr. Hale. The abundance of coins belonging to Claudius, which occur, may be accounted for from the circumstance of that Emperor having possessed himself of this part of the county, first capturing the British city of Gloucester. Counsel, in his "History of Gloucester," bears this testimony





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THE STREET IN NEW YORK

1840

to the popularity of one perhaps of the earliest local heathen rulers: "His great moderation and kindness to the conquered natives, while among them, raised him to so high a degree of estimation, that they erected a temple to his honour, and worshipped him as a god."

"On Tuesday, the 28th, as some labourers were digging a hole for the reception of a post, near the new Cheltenham Turnpike, they found an antique jar, containing many hundreds of Roman coins, mostly copper, bearing impressions of different Emperors and other devices. The jar is capable of holding nearly half a gallon, and the whole of its curious contents are in the possession of a lady in our neighbourhood (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, August 6, 1818.)

In the space of ground which lies between the present Great Western Station and the course of the Chelt, and adjoining the spot where British and Roman relics have been found, are proofs of its having been used as a burial place. From the united testimony of several inhabitants, during the process of brick-making, about forty years ago, the finding of what the workmen termed "long-chests," containing bones, glass bottles, vases, and coins, were of frequent occurrence. These were Roman coffins, and being made of lead, were of some intrinsic value, and found a ready purchaser in the person of Mr. Gore, a plumber, then residing in the town. From one of the brickmakers employed on this spot the author recovered several of the coins found, together with a curious ring-case formed by first joining a number of pieces of money together, and then perforating a hole in the centre. The most legible of the coins is one of Constantius, who died in the year 306, an Emperor celebrated for his military daring, and for his giving his kingdom to his two wives in succession—the Empresses Helena and Theodora. About the same period of time, stone coffins, containing bones, were found in property adjoining, then occupied by Mr. Weaver, as a market garden. These were probably Roman or Danish.

From the facts which we have now detailed, it will appear that Cheltenham was known to the Ancient Britons, and also to the Romans, and that it must have been a place of occasional residence with both of those ancient races. This opinion is confirmed by the fact, that there is not a village which surrounds the town but which bears evident marks of having been

once occupied either by Britons or Romans. The number, indeed, of remains of this period which have, from time to time, been dug up from the bowels of the earth within five or six miles around Cheltenham, is truly remarkable; and considering the former obscurity of the town, and the absence of a local press up to the year 1809, when the *Cheltenham Chronicle* was established—a time when excavations were going on for building purposes and general improvements—we doubt not but that very many discoveries have been made which have never been recorded.

On Leokhampton Hill there is a large fortress, situate on that side facing the Manor House, and so exceedingly steep as to be almost unassailable. Marks of fire have been traced in different parts of the embankment, and in June, 1844, in the road leading to it, were discovered a part of a helmet, with some human bones and portions of pottery. Oleeve Hill has a double entrenchment, traceable in the form of an irregular crescent for more than 300 yards along the summit. This seems to be about 180 yards from one acute angle to another, and about 100 yards from one obtuse angle to the other. It is on the brow of the hill, which is steep enough to be a sufficient defence to it, and there seems to have been an entrance from the vale. On the other side it is defended by two banks and ditches. The outward bank is low, and the ditch not deep. The situation of this fortress is very remarkable. In approaching it, the ground falls almost everywhere towards the outer ditch, and at the distance of half a bow shot from it, a person may see the area over the bank; while about 200 yards to the eastward, there is a spot of high ground which probably was the watch tower. The largest and most extensive post was on the projection of Nottingham Hill, across which two banks and ditches are made: the station was safely defended by two banks at equal distances around the hill. The other camps of the locality, are Churchdown Hill, Painswick Beacons, Witcomb Hillock, Bredon Hill, and Crickley Hill.

"A tessellated pavement has been discovered at Withington, in this neighbourhood, of about eleven feet by five feet; the pieces under two inches in size, and about an inch thick." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, Sep. 20, 1810.)

From the same authority we learn that in 1811, were

"discovered at Cleeve two large earthen pots, which on examination contained a considerable quantity of coin. They proved to be gold and silver coins of several Roman Emperors. The gold coins are of the Emperors Valerian, one of Valentinian, Grantian, and Theodosius. The silver coins are those of Constantius, Julian, Valentinian, Gratian, and Theodosius. The man has acknowledged that he found one hundred of the gold ones, the silver ones most probably greatly exceeded that number." Mrs. Tuberville, Charlton House, was a persevering collector of Roman antiquities. After that lady's decease in 1844, her unrivalled collection was sold and distributed to all parts of Europe. It contained a large number and variety of Roman coins, tessellated pavements, jars and other vestiges that had at various times been dug up in Cheltenham and its immediate vicinity. The tessellated pavement usually found is composed of pieces of a quarter of an inch square. And as a proof how the Romans could adapt themselves to manufacture in a foreign soil, it has been proved by an eminent geologist, Mr. Buckman, that the materials which they used in forming the tessellæ were all obtained from the earth around their dwellings, which was coloured without artificial aid—"all produced from Oolite freestones. The slate colours are likewise varied, yet all from different coloured layers of Lias rock" (Buckman and Newmarch.

The local paper during the year 1818, has recorded the finding of other relics. "Another antique apartment has been found this week adjoining the former discoveries of Sir W. Hicks, of Whitcomb Park, this room is considerably larger than the former, and it is thought to contain many curious proofs of ingenuity and magnificence." The late Thomas Henney, Esq., and Mr. Cossens, the Post-Master, are mentioned as having found Roman coins on the London Road Sireford and Whittington are alluded to as spots where discoveries have been made, and where further excavations are intended. The adjoining village or Whittington was also found to be a Roman Station. "In ploughing up a field a most beautiful tessellated pavement was discovered, the site of a Villa has been ascertained, seven rooms have been traced, and the pavement appears decorated with rude designs and drawings in perfect preservation. Mr. Lysons, the celebrated antiquary, who has seen the whole, it is thought will publish a description of it" (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, July 11, 1811).

In the village of Whittington, not far distant from the scene of the last Villa, a similar building was brought to light in the previous year. "In 1810, a discovery was made at Whittington, and the articles found are preserved in the British Museum. This Villa was accidentally brought to light while ploughing a field, the property of H. M. Brooke, Esq. On excavating the whole of the spot, a villa was traced, 150 ft. in length, containing seven different rooms, the pavements of which were ornamented with drawings, in most excellent preservation, representing Neptune, the God of the ocean, Orpheus, the God of music and animals, birds, fishes, &c. An hypocaust, or bath, with its appendages, similar to those at Witcomb, was also found."

At a meeting of the Archæological Society in 1845, there was read "a report of excavations made by two of the members in certain of the gravel pits on Leckhampton Hill, in which have been discovered fragments of ancient pottery, supposed to be Roman, and extensive remains of bones, &c., deposited in trenches or layers at depths below the surface, varying from three to six feet. Among the objects produced, as found in the excavations described in the memoir read, were a highly curious horse's bit, precisely similar to that figured in the 21st vol. of the Archæologica; and a portion of a spear or javelin-head; the former is in a remarkably perfect state, but the latter very much corroded."

The most recent discovery of a building was made in 1849, by Mr. Gomonde, in connection with another resident antiquarian, Captain Bell. This was the excavation of a Roman Villa on the farm of Mr. Chandler, at Dry Hill—that verdant mound which faces the town of Cheltenham on the Shurdington side, and locally called "The Crippets." This additional fact offers such a practical illustration of the prevalence of Roman residences so near our Borough that we purpose putting on record the particulars concerning it. The narrative that follows was written by Mr. Gomonde, for private distribution, and is from a copy presented to the author.

"The name of the farm on which our villa lies, is called the Dry Hill, and is in the occupation of Mr. Chandler, who had noticed that the plough frequently struck something which appeared to be a portion of a wall, on passing over a particular part of the field. With a view to ascertain what the

impediment might be, he caused an excavation to be made, and discovered, what turned out to be a Roman bath."

"We first commenced by clearing out the bath, and found the interior lined with stucco, several inches thick, of a reddish colour, and composed of pounded brick mixed with mortar, which, may at one time have received a good polish; similar stucco is to be seen in the cold bath at Witcombe. The length within the walls is 10 feet 6 inches, the breadth 4 feet 1 inch; at one end was a raised seat, which had been filled with clay and smoothed over, and then covered; at a later period a wall had been inserted in the middle of the bath; the seat at the end of the bath is now hollow, showing the supporting wall, the clay, &c., having been removed, and thus the bath seems to have two walls: the bottom also appears, at the same time, when the middle wall was inserted, to have been flagged with slabs of freestone, a hole arched over was made for allowing the waste water to escape on the north side: even with the wall was a shallow channel for allowing water to run into the bath.

"The bath communicated with the hypocaust, by means of a passage, with a solid floor, laid with sandstone, many of the pieces remaining *in situ*. The upper floor of the hypocaust was quite destroyed, the basis of the piers that supported it were in many cases in tolerable preservation and consisted of square tiles laid in cement; fragments of the large tiles that had connected the piers together were discovered, as also portions of the flues for conveying heated air into the upper chamber—in other respects time and the plough had utterly destroyed it on the outside. On the north east was a small chamber 3 feet 9 inches by 4 feet, with the use of which I am not acquainted: within were found fragments of a large vase, a foot in diameter at the mouth, and an iron stylus: the hypocaust communicated with a small chamber, through the centre of which passed the great flue leading from the *præfurnium*. At the south east side of this chamber were two walls almost close to each other.

"The next room is 27 feet by 16 feet 8 inches, the floor was quite destroyed, the clay on which the bricks were laid only remaining: one portion of brick was here found having the letters P R C stamped on it, other fragments were also found, perhaps from the floor; underneath the clay were large flues arched over, having stucco floors, dividing the chamber at



right angles, and arched over with mortar: the insides of these flues are full of charred wood and coal. It was likely that this chamber was the kitchen, as also the room set apart for the servants.

"The next room was 26 feet 6 inches long, and had a floor of pounded brick and mortar. At the east side was found a large stone, used perhaps as a hearth stone.

"The next room had originally been 30 feet 5 inches long, with a floor similar to that last described; but at a subsequent period another smaller chamber had been inserted, the walls of which were laid on the original floor, and a passage left to the east, communicating with the cryptoporticus of this small chamber. Under the floor which had been broken through, were found coins of third brass, of the following Emperors—Constantine mag. Licinius, Crispus, Valens: these coins being found in this position will, I conceive, give the exact date of the erection of the villa; in the north corner of the room were found, inserted under the floor, two urns, the one black, the other red, both when found were empty; the black one was much broken, the red one quite perfect, the mouth of this latter had a stone over it.

"Returning to the passage, and entering the cryptoporticus to the right, we enter a narrow room 18 feet by 10 feet, having the angles towards the west rounded off. The floor of this room is of a reddish colour, composed of pounded brick mixed with mortar, as was also the floor of the next chamber, which I consider the dining room for the master of the villa; this must have been a charming little chamber; its dimensions are 20 feet by 16 feet, in its original state it had been stuccoed and painted as we discovered by the fragments mixed with rubbish in the course of excavation. The colours were green, blue, and red of various shades, some of which were of extreme delicacy of tint. The aspect being south and west, we may fairly conclude it was warm all the year through, and the view towards the west could not be surpassed for extent and beauty; the place where the table was placed is raised a few inches from the ground, and was 3 feet 8 inches wide, covered with the same stucco as the rest of the floor; close to this, in a small hole filled with bones and charcoal, I found a coin of Valentinian. This chamber appears to have had a door, formed of a large slab

of free-stone. In the corner of the cryptoporticus, was another large hearthstone: not far from this were found the fragments of a mill-stone, and also the base of a column, and a portion of the handle of a glass liquor bottle. The wall between the cryptoporticus and the north chambers was 120 feet long; the breadth between the walls of the porticus was six feet six inches. On the outside of the villa, about the centre of the porticus, was discovered the base of what may have been a porch: this formed the entrance to the villa from the garden—(hortus); which latter had a gravel walk leading from the porch, dividing it into two equal parts. The walk appears to have been protected on each side by border stones; one of which was found *in situ*. The whole villa had originally been roofed over with stone tiles of a diamond form—quantities of which were found lying about in all directions. A stone trough was also found, of irregular form, hewn out of a solid block of freestone: it is still used for its original purpose—to hold water, and may be seen in the corner of Mr. Chandler's farm yard" (Gomonde.)

After having been connected with the county for upwards of four centuries, the architects of these beautiful monuments of art for ever departed from the scene of their labours. The Roman power gradually declined in consequence of the migrations of the people homewards to defend their native land from foreign foes. The Saxons, taking advantage of the defenceless state of the country, made attacks at different times, and took possession of portions of land, until, by degrees, they became masters of the entire island. It appears that this part of Britain was conquered in the sixth century. "In 577, Clavilin and his brother Cuthwine, defeated the Romans in a great battle at Derham, in Gloucestershire, and obtained possession of the three great Roman cities of Glevum, Corinium, and Aquæ Solis, which became known to the Saxons by the name of Gleo-ceaster (Gloucester), Cyrenceaster, (Cirencester), and Bathan-easter (Bath)" (Wright.)

After this event the footprints of Roman skill and power for ever disappear. The kingdom was divided into an Heptarchy, the largest and most important one being the West, which included this part of the county. Saxon laws, customs, and rules, now supplanted what had been established for centuries. "To our contact with the Roman power we are indebted,

perhaps, for an earlier amount of civilization than any other part of England. It is not a little singular how fond the Romans were of Gloucestershire, for out of about 325 parishes, of which our County now consists, Roman remains have been found in at least one third, a case, I believe, unparalleled in any other county in England" (Rev. S. Lysons.)

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### CHAP. III.

#### The Saxon Period.

CHELTENHAM was occupied by the Saxon race for upwards of four hundred years. During that period it seems to have enjoyed a state of uninterrupted prosperity, and to have been well populated for its size. Its adoption by the Germanic settlers was doubtless owing to the natural features which the district presented, for Fosbrooke remarks that "Anglo-Saxon towns were always in bottoms surrounded by hills." The first local King began to reign in 586, and from that date the Saxon towns of his Mercian Kingdom, including Cheltenham, appear to have commenced their career. The influence of Saxon manners and usages was soon felt in the rise and progress of Ecclesiastical, Political, and Agricultural institutions, as the quotations hereafter given from national and local documents, will fully manifest.

During the Saxon era, Cheltenham, and one hundred other manors in the county, were the property of the Crown. The charters of the age make especial reference to the prosperous state of the place and to the environs. The town then occupied a central position between two Royal residences. Winchcomb, and Gloucester, had their Mercian Palaces, and were the chief cities of the county. The amount of taxes contributed by the then inhabitants of Cheltenham, shows a very high state of

cultivation, a fact which is recorded by Saxon writers. "They may be considered to have possessed the best system of husbandry then in use, and their lands to have been extensively cultivated with all those exterior circumstances which mark established proprietorship and improvement, as small farms, including fields, regular divisions into meadow, arable, pasture, and wood: fixed boundaries, planted hedges, artificial dykes and ditches, '*selected spaces for vineyards*,' gardens and orchards, connected roads and paths, divided villages, and larger towns, with appropriated names for every spot that marked the limits of each property. All these appear in the earliest Anglo-Saxon charters which refer to this part of Gloucestershire" (Turner).

The allusion to local vineyards "*selected spaces for vineyards*," at this period, is an interesting fact as illustrating the mildness of our climate. From the discoveries which have been made of wine making and wine cooling implements in Roman Villas, as well as the allusions by Roman writers to the cultivation of the willow "for binding their vines," it is evident that the grape tree was known to our Roman ancestors. From their time, down to the present day, there is abundant evidence to show that it has continued to be reared with profit and advantage to the owner. The tree has become so inured to the soil, that it will grow in any situation, and unlike its more modern type, requires no artificial aids. It is rapid in growth, is easily propagated, and yields an abundant crop. It yet ornaments many an humble cottage and farm house, and some of the dwelling houses of the town. "Walter de Hereford of his stewardship held one vineyard in the Manor of Chinttenham (Cheltenham)" (Pipe Roll, 2 Henry II). The name of "vineyard" has ever been, and still continues, to be applied to a spot in the vicinity. This is a gradually rising ground in the parish of Charlton, which might probably have been the site of one of the ancient vineyards. This conjecture is made upon the fact, that grounds, bearing the same title, occur around many other towns in the county which are quoted as "Vineyards" in old records. Land in Twyning was held of the Lord of Tewkesbury in the reign of Edward III., on condition of "finding a man for sixteen days in digging in the vineyards, and gathering the grapes for three days" (Fosbrooke). William of Malmsbury, who wrote nearly seven hundred years ago, says

"that this county is planted thicker with vineyards than any other in England, more plentiful in crops, and more pleasant in flavour." The old historian Camden, observes, "we have no reason to admire that so many places in this county from their vines are called vineyards, since they formerly afforded plenty of wine; and that they yield none now is rather to be imputed to the sloth and inactivity of the inhabitants, than the indisposition of the climate." At Cromhall, "about the beginning of the last century, there was in the Park a large plantation of vines, which produced ten hogsheads of good wine in one year. The vine plantation was destroyed, in consequence of a dispute with the Rector on a claim of tythes" (Rudge, 1803). "The Vineyard, where was a house of the Abbots of Gloucester, was one of the original vineyards mentioned by William of Malmesbury. Vineyards were begun by the Britons, after the year 280, and became extinct, either by a treaty with France, which stipulated their destruction, or Gascony falling into the hands of the English" (Fosbrooke). "After the conquest the vineyards increased in number. The monks, who showed their taste and judgment by erecting their monasteries in the most beautiful, fertile, and sheltered valleys in the realm, were naturally the most successful growers of the grape. By the middle of the twelfth century vineyards extended over large tracts of the country. Gloucestershire being especially celebrated for producing plenty of excellent wine, almost equal to the growth of France" (Chambers Journal, April 1860). Cyrus Redding, in his historical account of the vine, cites a number of authorities to show that this county and other parts of England have been noted for the growth of grapes from the earliest period. Palgrave quotes a book by Malmesbury, in reference to the local abundance of grapes raised, of such antiquity that the original work is extremely rare—the only known copy being found in the British Museum. The largest and most successful cultivator of the vine in old times was Thomas Lord Berkeley, an ancestor of Col. Berkeley, the M.P. for the town. This nobleman lived in the reign of Edward the third—a time when wine was made for exportation to foreign countries. In 1370, he is described by Camden as the possessor of a large vineyard, "which was very productive, and which he tended with great care."

From the traces that remain it would seem that the Saxons had villages and burial places at short distances from the town. The village is invariably found near a stream of water, the best example being the one on the banks of the Isis, which flows from the Seven Springs on the Cirencester road. The burial places are generally located near the foot of a hill, as is illustrated by the discoveries at Leckhampton, Shurdington and Cleeve. At Leckhampton, coins, lance-heads, fibulæ (brooch) and the usual contents of an Anglo-Saxon grave are frequently turned up in the gravel beds. Wright records in 1844, a discovery in this last named place "The ribs or framework in bronze of a defensive Saxon cap, were discovered on a skull dug up at Leckhampton Hill, near Cheltenham. A framework of a helmet, not very unlike that at Cheltenham, was taken by Mr. Bateman from an Anglo-Saxon barrow in Derbyshire." In 1854 another discovery was made, "The men at present employed in excavating the road to Leckhampton Hill, in removing a tumulus, discovered the skeleton of a man, with his teeth entire. From a helmet and several portions of armour being found with the bones, it is conjectured to be the remains of one who, from the manner of sepulture, must have borne distinguished military rank, and which had rested in the peaceful grave for nearly one thousand years. This conjecture is the more probable as some few years since a skeleton was disinterred at Shurdington, over which a stone with an inscription denoting whose remains it covered was found."—*Cheltenham Examiner*.

To the Saxons we are indebted for the first establishment of distinct boundaries in localities. The derivation of the name by which the town is now designated is doubtless of Saxon origin. The most recent of writers on the subject remarks, "Each chief received his share of land, on which he settled with his household and followers. We still trace these original allotments in the names of places in all parts of England, which are composed of the patronymic of the family or race. Thus, when we find such a name as Birming-ham we may be sure that it was originally the ham, or residence, of the Beormnigas, the descendants of the clan of Beorm" (Wright). The opinions of writers on the subject are various, but they all agree that the Saxon termination "ham" signifies home or town, and if Chilt is a British term for a rivulet, it would lead to the conjecture that the original name

"Chiltham" might have signified the town near the river. "The name is probably from Chilt, which river runs through it' (Rudge.)" "A stream of water, the little *Chelt*—the old British name of the brook, which rises at the base of the hills in Dowdeswell,—running through the *Ham*—the Anglo-Saxon word denoting a home, a dwelling-place, town, or village" (Bailey). Rudder observes—"Its most probable derivation is from the Saxon word Chilt, which signifies an elevated spot, and ham, a town, village, monastery, or place of shelter. Whence, from its geographical situation, the word Cheltenham might have originally implied "the town under the hills." Ruff affirms that Chelt signifies, "a place rising to an eminence," and Ham, "a monastery, or minister." Other authors, and among them Atkyns, contend that the name is derived from the river Chelt, originally Chilt, which rises at Dowdeswell, three miles distant, passes through the South side of the town, and empties itself into the Severn at Wainload Hill. Gilpin says that, "The name Cheltenham is derived from the Saxon Chiltham, signifying with them a town." On the Court Roll it is said—"Cheltenham, als Chilteham, als Chiltham, is a towne situate on ye north side of a small purling silver streame or rivulet called Chilt, from which rivulet ye Saxons give it ye name of Chiltham, ye word ham being the same with them as ye word towne is amongst us." Martin records his belief that, "the ancient town of Cheltenham, in Gloucestershire, derives its name from the little brook or river Chelt." And in contrast to the various conjectures, is the opinion of Fosbroke—"There does not remain the name of any village, town, or place, which is not originally of the Anglo-Saxon language, except the rivers, which still seem to retain the British appellations. Ham, whence came our word home, undoubted Anglo-Saxon, implies house, farm or village. If Chilt be taken from the rivulet, it ought to be a British appellation."

The orthography, as well as the etymology of the place, has also been variously described. In Domesday Book it is styled Chinttenham. In the records of Cirencester Abbey, of 1120, it is entered as Chilteehe. Neville, who wrote in 1143, designates it Chilt. In the sixteenth century, Holinshed calls it Chilttenham, and Dugdale spells it Chelteham. The earliest document in which we have been enabled to trace the name Cheltenham, as it

is at present used, is the Manor Act of 1625, and from that period to our own day there appears to have been no deviation in the spelling of the word.

During the long reigns of the Saxon and Anglo-saxon monarchs, the town appears to have been in a favourable condition as to husbandry. It seems to have escaped the ravages of the Danes, unlike the other places of the neighbourhood. Through all the successive periods of Saxon history down to its termination, no incidents occur on record to lead to the supposition that the town suffered from the civil contentions then going on.

King Edward the Confessor commenced his reign in 1041, and for twenty-four years he was the owner of all Cheltenham. The extent of the Manor at this time was very considerable, consisting of "eight hides and a half,"—equal to a thousand English acres. It had twenty-one "plough tillages." A tillage was as much land as might be tilled with one plough, in a year, having meadow, pasture, and houses for the householders and cattle belonging to it, and consisted of nearly eighty acres. Among the list of inhabitants at this distant period there were "twenty villeins, ten bordars, and seven servi." "Villeins" were a class of men who had to labour for their Lord without receiving any compensation. "Bordars" were those who held plots of land on condition that they supplied the Lord with poultry and smaller provisions for his board and entertainment. "Servi" were absolute slaves, and not allowed to retain any property in their possession. Each of those classes of persons were little better than bondsmen: how many free-men cohabited with them is not traceable. That Cheltenham must then have been in a prosperous condition, appears evident from its possession of "two mills," and also from the fact of its having paid to the King "£9 5s., and three thousand loaves for the dogs." The last mentioned sum, which was tax money, is certainly a large amount for the times,—the pound being then equal to £3 2s. of the current coin. The "three thousand loaves" were a payment in aid of the dog tax. This was levied to support the numerous dogs that were kept to celebrate the local chases, which may have been first instituted, not so much to afford pleasure to royalty, as to exterminate those destructive animals which secreted themselves in the thick foliage of the forest during the day, and in the night sallied forth in search of



their prey; this surmise is supported by most of the ancient historians. Duncange states that the bread given to these dogs was made of a very coarse description, and called *panis sordidus*. Smythe, in his "Lives of the Berkeleys," mentions the grant of forty-four quarters and one bushel of oats, in 23 Edward III., to Lord Berkeley's hounds, for the support of the Micklewood Chase. Spelman says, that at this period, the Lord of the Hundred used to derive various aids and services, and among these, corn to feed hunting dogs. The reason why this tax was first levied was, he says, that the country might be cleared from wolves, foxes, badgers, and other vermin.

"Deerhurst implies a woody ground, stocked with deer; and this residence may explain, why in the time of Edward the Confessor, the Manor of Cheltenham was held in the King's hands, and three thousand loaves retained in payment for the dogs" (Fosbrooke).

Hunting with dogs was commenced by the Britons, and continued through succeeding ages down to a comparatively recent period. The British and Roman races have perpetuated their love of the sport by representations of their mode of practising the chase on pottery and other articles, the remains of which occur in our country. The reason why the town was so heavily rated, arises from the fact of its manor being vested in the crown. In return for a large contribution in support of the State, the residents on the land of royalty had granted to them special privileges connected with commerce and agriculture. These privileges are referred to in a trial respecting the manorial rights which took place in the reign of Elizabeth, the particulars of which are detailed in another chapter. Upon that occasion charters were cited which prove that Cheltenham was protected by Royal Grant as early as the eleventh century,—“because the whole of this royal gift is from all service quit, as in the charters of Edward the Confessor, William the Conqueror, and Henry the first, Kings of England, more fully is contained; but if any one should presume anything contrary to this gift and confirmation, he having been summoned before the Exchequer, shall pay one hundred pounds of gold” (Prinn). The attention which the King gave to the place, was no doubt owing to his residence in the neighbourhood, which might have led to a personal acquaintance. Gloucester was his favourite abode.

In that ancient city he held his court and summoned his parliament.

The description which we have given of the condition of Cheltenham has been principally derived from one of the most valuable records possessed by any European nation—*Doomsday Book*. This work was commenced by order of William the Conqueror, in 1080, and completed in 1086. It contains a survey of nearly all the lands then in the kingdom, with their value, occupiers, and a great deal of miscellaneous information of value. The facts were compiled by commissioners, who visited every nook and corner of the country, and had full power to summon juries in each locality, and to administer the oath to all who composed them—from the haughty baron down to the manor serf. The original *Doomsday Book* is still carefully preserved in Westminster Abbey, and it is written in a clear legible hand. It was printed in English by order of George III. and copies of it may be found in most national libraries. The portion of this curious relict of antiquity which relates to Cheltenham, and which we have endeavoured to elucidate, we now present to the reader *verbatim* :—

**“TERRA REGIS.**—King Edward held Cheintenhām. There were eight Hides and an half. Reinbaldt holds one Hide and an half, which belongs to the Church. There were three Plough tillages in Domesne, and twenty Villeins, and ten Bordars, and Seven Serbi, with eighteen Plough Tillages. The Priests [have] two Plough Tillages. There are two Mills of 11s. 3d. King William’s Steward added to this Manor two Bordars and four Villeins, and three Mills, of which two are the King’s; the third is the Steward’s; and there is one Plough Tillage more. In the time of King Edward it paid £9 5s. and three thousand loaves for the Dogs. It now pays £20 and twenty Cows, and twenty Hogs, and 16s. instead of the Bread.”

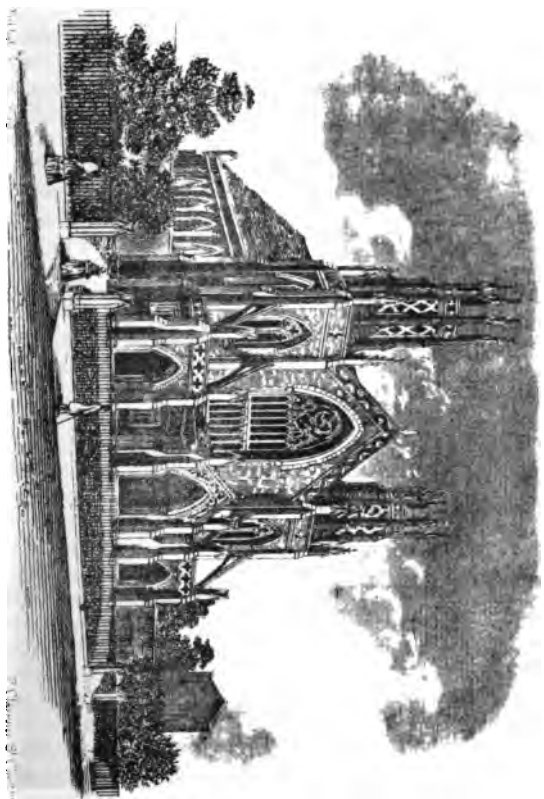
This extract, it will be seen, is headed with the words “Terra Regis,” or the King’s Land. In allusion to this title, Brady

remarks, "that what is recorded under it, is said to be in ancient demesne, and consequently to be entitled to certain privileges, such as being exempt from all tolls in markets, fairs, &c." The relative value of money at the time of the Domesday survey, compared with our own times, illustrates the period under notice. Thus the "16s. instead of the bread" above quoted, was equal to £3 of the present coin. Atkyns, in reference to this question, remarks—"A bushel of wheat soon after the Norman Conquest was sold for a penny, and because their penny was equal in weight to our three-pence, we may therefore allow their bushel of wheat to be valued at three-pence. At this day (1712) a bushel of wheat may be valued at four shillings, which is sixteen times the value of wheat 600 years ago; the conclusion will be that a man might live in that time as well upon 20s. a-year of our money as on £16 a-year at present." And according to this mode of reckoning, a person might live as plentifully upon £100 under William the Conqueror, as upon £5,000 under Queen Victoria, especially when we take into account the increased public taxes, and the artificial wants and luxurious mode of living since introduced.

- It is an interesting and striking fact that a church was erected and endowed here prior to the Heptarchy. "Reinbald holds one hide and a half (of land) which belongs to the church." "The priests have two plough tillages." The land thus allotted for the maintenance of the priesthood must have amounted to one hundred and sixty acres. The "one hide and a half" which was the property of the church, and appropriated to its maintenance, was equal to about one hundred and eighty English acres. "Priests were not maintained by tithes, but by a certain portion of land, with its stock of servants or cattle. Wherever we find a priest mentioned in Domesday, we may conclude there was a church" (Dr. Nash.) This incident has led to the remark "Of the Anglo-Saxon husbandry, we may observe, that Domesday Survey gives us some indication that the cultivation of the church lands was much superior to any other class of society" (Turner Sax Hist.)

The erection of a church in the Saxon era, with its sacerdotal officers provided for by an income from land, at once shows the then importance of Cheltenham both in an ecclesiastical and civil point of view. It is evident, that soon after the conversion

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of the Saxon to the Christian faith, that buildings must have been erected here for religious worship. This county can claim perhaps the honour of being among the first to renounce idolatry. The recent indefatigable researches of the Rev. S. Lysons demonstrate that the preaching of Christianity was practised at Gloucester during the Apostolic age. The influence of the new religion upon the then inhabitants must indeed have been great and lasting, for at a very early period after its local introduction, a christian temple existed in the town prior to the church above recorded. Thus, to the Saxon owners of the Manor of Cheltenham, nearly a thousand years ago, we are indebted for the first establishment of an institution devoted to the service of Christianity. "Gloucestershire was probably the first county in England to embrace the Gospel of Christ" (Lysons.)

## THE SAXON PRIORY.

One of the most momentous events in the history of Britain was the landing of the first professor of Christianity on its barren and uncultivated shore. Little, perhaps, did the ancient missionary contemplate, as the waves impelled onwards his rude galley bark toward the British island, that such important results would flow from his visit,—that he was destined to scatter among the aborigines the seeds of a future civilization of the highest order. Christianity, for some time after its introduction into this country, had to contend against apparently insurmountable obstacles. Its converts were severely punished, and its progress was retarded by the barbarous and warlike character of the inhabitants, and their liability to be captured by heathen invaders. Still it did progress, and Emperors, as well as the common people, were among its professors. Crude as were the notions of religion in that early era, its influence was yet felt to a considerable extent, as is evidenced by the erection of the various edifices for religious worship and discipline, brought to light by the labours of the antiquarian. At that far distant, yet pregnant epoch, when Christianity had thus began to shed its benign and cheerful rays—its "day-spring from on high," on our dark and uncivilized island, there was erected a Priory at Cheltenham, to cultivate, teach, and practice, its life-giving spirit.

Could we but roll back the tide of time, we should witness the site of the present town ornamented by a single convent and building, and the sound heard of the *Matin* and *Vesper* bell. Upwards of a thousand years have now elapsed since Cheltenham Priory was first reared, and although the name of its founder, or the precise year of its erection, is not now ascertainable, yet it will be apparent, from what follows, that it must have had existence so early as the eighth century. Cheltenham was under Saxon rule for upwards of four centuries. During this period converts to the new faith were made so rapidly that it must have included the entire local population in its profession. The first Cathedral at Gloucester, the religious Houses of that city, the monasteries of Withington, Cleeve, Arle, Hatherley, Charlton, Winchcomb, Tewkesbury, and other adjacent places, were successively erected. It is therefore probable that the origin of Cheltenham Priory is referable to the same date. This opinion is confirmed by the institution being mentioned in the same documents which refer to others of the locality. Cleeve, in the days of the Saxons, was a most important monastic station. Its monastery was dedicated to St. Michael, in the time of King Offa, in 790, "which became subject to the see of Worcester, in 888, by Werfrith, Bishop of Wiccia, in consequence of a grant from King Alfred" (Rudge). Thus we see that one of the most learned and pious of monarchs must have taken an interest in the religious welfare of the locality. To King Alfred an endowment is ascribed, and it is not improbable that—as he was then the owner of the Manor of Cheltenham,—our own Priory merited his attention and support, more especially as it was under the same Bishop's jurisdiction. This local connection of the greatest of the Saxon race, adds additional interest to our subject. It is an honour to be able to include the name of the royal translator of one of the most divine aspirations the world has ever known—the *Lords Prayer*, the orthography of which to this day retains its Saxon idioms as first written by Alfred.

The first person who makes mention of the Priory, which once displayed its hallowed walls within the precincts of the borough, is the eminent ecclesiastical historian, Tanner, in his "*Notitia Monastica*." That valuable authority states that, at the annual assemblage of all the then religious institutions in

the district, called "the Synod," and held in the year 803, at Cloveshoe, the Priory at Cheltenham was the subject of a warm discussion. He relates that "Denebert, Bishop of Worcester, claimed from it and Beckford, as their diocesan, a certain feast or annual payment, which the Bishop of Hereford (who, it would seem, in former times, possessed the monastery) refused to grant. It was, however, arranged that the Bishop of Worcester should receive the feast from the monasteries of Cheltenham and Beckford alternately." Tanner also incidentally remarks that the building was "situated on a rising ground." Fortunately we are not left to conjecture as to where this interesting spot was, for its precise position is clearly stated in the Manor Records. Its site is now occupied by the houses Nos. 403 and 404 High-street, and for a long period was the property of Lord Capel, one of the Essex family. The following are the words on the Court Roll,—“Antiently within the town was a Priory which is now the house let by Lord Capel to the person who farms his tythes.” Those who remember when Cambray was a field, prior to 1802, and joined by a farm, well know that it was below the level of that part of the High-street which it abuts, and where the Priory stood. By such persons the “rising ground” of the ancient historian will at once be recognised, and the authenticity of the entry on the Manor Rolls be received without hesitation. We are also indebted to other authors for information on this subject. The records of the ancient decayed monasteries were collected by the local antiquarian Prinn. In his account of the situation and value of the lands forming the endowment of these religious institutions, he alludes to “a wood at Cudnalls,” belonging to “a Priory at Cheltenham.” “The Priory is certified to hold an estate called Dunhatherley, and lands in Chelteam” (Nicholas.) “There was a monastery here as early as the ninth century, houses were built near it, and by degrees formed a town” (Moreau). “Our earliest knowledge of the Ecclesiastical affairs is derived from Prinn’s M.S., wherein mention is made of a Priory at Cheltenham” (Griffiths). “A Priory was founded near the site which still retains the name” (Lee). “A Priory was known to have existed at Cheltenham, which was supposed to have been founded by the Saxons” (Moss). “Here was once a Priory” (Magna Britannia). “A Priory is mentioned in Tanner’s *Notitia Monastica*” (Rudge.)



According to Nicholas, in the eleventh century, the Synods were removed from Cloveshoe to Gloucester. The Archbishop and clergy frequently assembled in that city for the purpose of watching over the interests of the religious institutions of the county. At one of these Synods assembled in 1086, a Priory is included in the list of rentals of property as also a "Church with its Chapels at Chinttenham." "A monastery existed in the town prior to 803" (Johnson.)

In common with most of the edifices then within the dioceses of Worcester and Hereford, the Priory at Cheltenham was occupied by Monks belonging to the celebrated Benedictine order. Their founder, St. Benedict, was born at Nursia, in Italy, and was the son of a Roman senator. He founded his sect at Mount Cassin, in 516, and died there in 543. His views were brought to England by St. Augustin in 596, and although opposed by the clergy for a long time, they were entertained very generally in less than a century afterwards, and nearly all the rich and extensive monasteries which once existed in this part of Gloucestershire, adopted the St. Benedictine rules and discipline. Belonging to this order there have been 46 Kings, 51 Queens, 4 Emperors, and 12 Empresses. The value of this institution in an educational point of view cannot be too highly appreciated. It must have been then the only light glimmering in the dark night of ignorance with which Saxon Cheltenham, in common with England, was surrounded. Compared with the present, it was gloomy; but it was then the only school. The discipline was severe; still within its rude walls the lamp of knowledge burned, and were the inhabitants of this now large borough divested of all that it owes to the patient and humble labour of the Benedictines of the ninth century, they would be mentally poor indeed.

We have now traced out the local connection of the Saxons. We have seen the endurance, valour, heroic patriotism, and religious feeling which they manifested. We have witnessed that they were evidently intended to be the civilizers of their race. We have next to record their conquest and deprivation of manorial and political power. But they left behind them monuments that will endure as long as man exists, in the influence of that faith which they so zealously aided to spread. Norman struggled with Saxon, but although the law of the former

prevailed, the free firm spirit of the latter remained unconquered, and influences us at the present day. "Eight centuries have passed away" says one who has frequently visited and examined the antiquities of our town (Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Bart.) "and where is the Norman now? or where is NOT the Saxon? In many a noiseless field, with thoughts for armies, your relics, Oh! Saxon heroes, have won back the victory from the bones of the Norman saints; and whenever, with fairer fates, freedom opposes force, and justice, redeeming the old defeat, smites down the armed fiend that would consecrate the wrong—smile, Oh! soul of our Saxon Haro'd! smile, appeased on the Saxon's land."

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#### CHAP. IV.

#### *The Norman Period.*

THE conquest of England by the Normans is one of the most distinctly marked epochs in history. Cheltenham, from the first formation of a Saxon monarchy, had ever been royal property. During the Norman dynasty it was held on the same tenure, and William the Conqueror was the absolute owner of the place. In preceding chapters we have followed the downward path of history, and traced out who were its successive occupants. We recorded how Briton was supplanted by Roman, who in his turn was followed by Saxon,—each leaving behind him memorials of his national characteristics. We have thus travelled through eight centuries of time. We now reach a period when Saxon power declines, and has to give way to Norman usages, laws, and influences. Thus, at the end of the eleventh century, a foreign power was introduced, which, amalgamating itself with the native elements of population, gradually led to the formation of the English nation.

The Royal Norman, when taking possession of the manor, enlarged and improved it sufficiently to lay the foundation of that consequence, which at no subsequent period has been entirely lost. The Domesday Survey, recorded in a previous chapter, reveals the social and religious state, both before and after the conquest. The King farmed his own estate, and had upon it a resident Steward. He granted to the inhabitants a new charter, which confirmed all the privileges previously given by King Edward the Confessor. He also added both to the extent and population of the place.

**"King William's Steward added to this Manor two Bordars and four Villeins, and three Mills, of which two are the King's; the third is the Steward's, and there is one plough tillage more."**

In the Norman age "Bordars" were tenants who held a bord or cottage with land, but were in a servile condition. In the lieu of rent, they had to supply the monarchs table "with provisions for his board and entertainment; hence the land so held was called bord land" (Kennett). The "four Villeins" were a class of men who inhabited the villages, and though they ranked above the "Bordars," yet they were obliged to work without reward. The King always retained vassals in his own manor, or when the property was let out they were given to cultivate the soil. Thus, with the Saxons that existed at the time the Conqueror first became Lord of the Manor, there were in a state of servility a number of persons attached to husbandry. The "one Plough Tillage more" in a Norman sense, "signified what we call a teams tillage, or as much land as may be tilled and laboured with one plough, and the beasts belonging thereto in a year, having meadow pastures, and cattle belonging to it. This was different according to the soil, not less then eighty or more than one hundred and twenty acres" (Selden). The working population in the eleventh century, under Norman rule, must therefore have consisted of Seven Saxon slaves (Servi) Twelve Cottagers (Bordars) and Twenty-four villagers, all of whom, more or less, were in a state of bondage. The number of freemen, the original Freeholders (Frank-tenants) must have been considerable. The charter of the day gives them exemption from the payment of tolls on roads, markets, and fairs. The

sum levied and collected for taxes was more than double that of the preceding reign. To the Conqueror the place paid "£20, and twenty cows, and twenty hogs, and 16s. instead of the bread." What a strange and unsocial picture this "Queen of Watering Places" must have presented at this memorable epoch of despotic power—when the "Curfew bell" tolled its inhabitants to rest ere the fair light of day had departed!

In the documents of this period we trace the origin of the copyhold tenure under which nearly all property in the town of Cheltenham is still held. The words "Manor," "Lord," "Court Leet," are of Saxon and Norman extraction, and have now been in local use for upwards of seven centuries. The "Villeins" of 1066, when the Norman invader first claimed the place, were the originals of the copyholders now enrolled at our Manor Office. The Monarch's Steward held a Court for the Freehold Tenants, and an inferior Court for the base tenants. At these Courts, changes of tenancy were enrolled, dues paid, and fealty sworn to the owner of the Manor. That greatest of English commentators, Judge Blackstone, in his "commentaries" has described the legal birth of the modern copyholder from the ancient "Villein." He thinks that the Normans might give some sparks of enfranchisement to the slaves, on the estates of the Saxons, by admitting them to the oath of fealty, which conferred the right of protection, and raised the tenant to a kind of estate superior to slavery, but inferior to any other condition. "This inferior tenure was copyhold. In its original foundation, it was nothing better than an estate at will; but the kindness and indulgence, the good-nature and benevolence of successive lords of manors, permitted their villeins and their children to enjoy their estates. From a series of uniform wills, customs arose, by virtue of which the Common Law, always favourable to liberty, and of which Custom is the life, gave them a title to prescribe against their lords, and, on performance of the services, to hold their lands in spite of any determination of lord's will" (Blackstone).

The Manor Act, now in operation, although passed so recently as the seventeenth century, retains in its phraseology specimens of Norman servitude. The holders of property are described as of "**base tenure**," and their possession is made conditional "**on suit of court, and by the yearly rents, works, silver,**

**Peterpence, and Breadreap money, to be paid annually and respectibely."** It has been computed from the Domesday Survey, by the county historians, that during the Norman rule the Manor comprised 850 acres, which, compared with English measure, would nearly amount in extent to 1,200 acres. The Manor at present comprises 3,387 acres.

Like his Royal predecessor, Edward, William the conqueror was a frequent resident in the vicinity, and his personal career is associated with the history of our county. There are events which show that Gloucester and Tewkesbury were indirectly the cause of the Norman King first invading the shores of England. The celebrated Earl Godwin attacked King Edward at Gloucester, and at other places, in consequence of a quarrel between them, and having fled abroad excited the interest of William towards Britain. Brictric, Lord of the Manor, of Tewkesbury, was sent as ambassador to Flanders. Maud, the Earl of Flanders daughter, became enamoured of him, but he refused to marry her. Maud afterwards become the wife of William the Conqueror. Brictric's estate was seized, and Queen Maud retained possession of Tewkesbury until her death in 1083. "William the Conqueror often held his court at Gloucester, and generally spent the Christmas there, attended by the principal nobility and ecclesiastics of the kingdom. In 1084, and again in 1085, the King, with his Lords, held his court for five days. The Clergy also, with their Archbishop, held several Synods here" (Counsel). But the event which gave such celebrity to this local Parliament, and which will for ever render it famous in the annals of history, yet remains to be told. "We learn from a most admirable paper, delivered in Gloucester in July 1860, by the Rev. Mr. Hartshorne, that in the Parliament which was held in Gloucester, in 1080, the wonderful survey of England, called Domesday Book, was decided on at the command of William the Conqueror" (Rev. S. Lysons).

The Normans have left behind them traces of their long residence, in the vestiges of ecclesiastical architecture which occur in the locality. During the alterations that have been at times effected in the parish church, the remains of a Norman foundation have been brought to light on the side of the North Porch extending to the site of the ancient Chapels and Chanceries. A portion of a Norman arch, with its zigzag mouldings, was

found under the foundation of the Alms Houses that were taken down in the Parish Churchyard in August 1813. The Old Market, which stood on the site of the premises now occupied by Mr. Hawkins, jeweller, near the High-street entrance to Clarence-street, having been blown down by a gust of wind in 1811, left two houses adjoining exposed. Upon their removal in 1817, a massive stone was discovered, profusely ornamented with Norman devices of the later or transition style. The remains of an inscription were traceable upon it, and the date 1107 was clearly legible.

The churches around the town yet retain many portions of this period in their structure. The Norman Chapel at Southam has been restored at the expense of Lord Ellenborough, and after the lapse of ages, it will again be used as a place for Divine Worship. The nearest churches where the original Norman style may be traced are Leckhampton—portions of the interior and font; Cleeve—transition Norman, snake doorway, 1180; Brockworth—interior arches beautifully ornamented with zigzag cuttings; Churchdown—arch of the south door and bases of some of the columns, 1180; Elkstone—a very rich and perfect specimen profusely ornamented; Postlip—perfect arch in Chancel, and a rare ornament on doorway; Shurdington—curious Norman cross in the porch; Stanley Poulton—fine chapel, south door and chancel arch perfect; Stoke Orchard—font, and several windows, very perfect, and but lately restored; Swindon—tower, very ancient, and unequally sided; Tredington—chancel, very curious; Witcomb—early period; and Withington—a large and elegant structure, the east door-way is a fine specimen of the Norman style of 1145.

At the Conquest William reserved one thousand four hundred Manors to himself as his private share, which included Cheltenham. He divided the rest of the kingdom among eight hundred of his followers, which led to the introduction of the feudal system. This state of things was so opposite to the popular mode of government adopted by the Saxons, that the monarch was feared but not respected by his subjects. "If his valour excites our astonishment, his selfishness, or want of philanthropy, must raise our abhorrence. If our eyes are dazzled with the glare of his treasure, our hearts must shudder at the means by which it was acquired. His power degenerated

into oppression, and the dismal toll of the Curfew Bell stately reminded his unhappy subjects of their slavery" (Clarendon.)

The Conqueror was himself at last conquered by death. He made a sort of testamentary document in the form of a letter addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, in which he nominated his son to the English throne. This Will having been adopted by the Clergy, gained the crown for the young Norman. William became King of England, and by virtue of that act, took possession of all his father's manors, Cheltenham among the number. William II., surnamed Rufus, was therefore the next Lord of the Manor.

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## CHAP. V.

### Owners of the Manor since the Conquest.

CHELTENHAM has been a legally constituted Manor from the days of the Saxon Heptarchy down to our own times, a period extending over twelve centuries. It has been held in succession by the reigning monarch, by nobles whom monarchs wished to honour for valour performed, by abbots and abbesses who headed the monasteries of their day, and by a host of other individuals celebrated alike in the walks of literature, the senate house, and the battle field. The honoured names connected with our Manor are indeed numerous, and they are associated with events which occurred in their day and generation, which have both a local and national interest. In future chapters will be found full particulars of these noble personages, and their family pedigrees, and of the various circumstances which unite them with the link of English History. The Manor was possessed in turn by the long line of Saxon Kings, William the Conqueror, William Rufus, Henry I., Stephen, Henry II., and by King

John. By all these owners, charters were granted which gave to the inhabitants rights and privileges of a most important character, and which helped to make the place prosperous in trade and commerce. Henry II. gave the Manor in dowry to his Queen Eleanor, but in consequence of the unhappy disputes which existed between them, he took possession, and is recorded as having received "100 shillings aid money" direct from the copyholders. King John, in 1199, exchanged the Manor for other lands with the famous Henry de Bohen, Earl of Hereford. Upon this brave warrior's attainder, the Manor again reverted to the crown, and in 1219, Henry III. gave it to William Long Espee, the illegitimate son of the celebrated "Fair Rosamond." This individual, who through marriage was created the second Earl of Salisbury, from the notices which occur in the documents of the period, must have taken an interest in the welfare of his property, a circumstance no doubt attributable to his abode in the county. At his death in 1226, he bequeathed his estates to his son William. But this person having joined the expedition against the Saracens, and consequently left the kingdom without the King's leave, his Manor and other estates were seized and claimed by the crown.

Henry III. next gave the Manor to the Bishop of Hereford, but he enjoyed its possession but for a few years, for, in 1247, for political reasons, that monarch exchanged it away with the Abbey of Fescamp in Normandy, for the towns Winchelsea and Rye in Sussex, and John Limel, Esq., who died in 1309, held the Manor on lease of that religious body. The grant to the Abbey of Fescamp was confirmed by an act passed 40 Edward III. It next passed by sale to the Norman Abbey of Montbury, but in consequence of the dissolution of alien priories, the Manor again became the property of the Crown, and in 1415, Henry V. was the possessor. In 1466, Edward IV. granted the Manor to the Abbey of Sion, in Middlesex, and the managers of that extensive religious institution held possession until 1540, when they were deprived of it by virtue of the Act which abolished all monasteries. Among the list of distinguished personages who leased the Manor of this Abbey, was Sir Maurice Berkeley, brother to the fifth Lord Berkeley, and an ancestor of the present Member for the Borough. After the death of Henry VIII., in 1547, the Manor was held by Edward VI., and in 1553, by



Queen Mary, who granted it in the following year "to Catherine Buckler and Roger Lygon for their joint lives."

These names belong to a family of very considerable wealth in their day. They were the descendants by marriage of the celebrated Judge Greville who lived in the reign of Henry VII., and whose brass inlaid monument in the Parish Church has attracted so much attention from antiquarians. The former name is the youthful widow of Sir J. Buckler, knt., and the latter her brother. They jointly were the lessees of the Manor until the commencement of the seventeenth century. They resided at the very ancient mansion of Arle Court, and Sir Fleetwood Dormer, and the Hon. Judge Dormer, of the King's Bench, were their representatives. The Grevilles, and their next to kin the Lygons, and Bucklers, resided at this mansion until the marriage of the last female Lygon with the Hon. John Yorke, Earl of Hardwicke, who in 1795, sold it to Thomas Packer Butt, Esq., in whose family it has since been vested. The Lygon family from the time of their first residence down to their connection with the Manor, appears to have been interred in our Parish Church. Their monuments, including the famous brass one of their ancestor Judge Greville, mostly occur in the Chancel. Some idea may be formed of how distinguished a position these lessees of the Manor held, from the fact that the arms on their mural tablets had fifteen quarterings, and that their family pedigree included alliances with the families of Lygon, Bracey, Maddersfield, Harlefleete, Decors, Giffard, Beauchamp, Abbot, Ufleet, Furnival, Lufton, Verdon, Greville, Arle, and Southney.

At the death of her sister Mary, in 1558, Queen Elizabeth took possession of the Cheltenham Manor, and in the sixteenth year of her reign, granted a lease of it for the term of thirty-one years, to Sir John Woolley, Knt. At the death of Buckler and Lygon aforementioned, Sir John Woolley came into possession, and in 1589, he sold the residue of his interest in the lease to W. Norwood, Esq., of Leckhampton. At the expiration of this grant in 1603, the Manor devolved to James the First, who invested it in certain trustees for the benefit of his son, the Prince of Wales, afterwards Charles the First. In 1628, in fulfilment of a prior agreement, the Prince sold it to John Dutton, Esq., of Sherborne, and in that gentleman's family it

remained vested for 215 years, until it was purchased of his descendant, Lord Sherborne, by James Agg Gardner, Esq., in May, 1843. This gentleman died in 1859, and his son, J. Tynte Agg Gardner, Esq., succeeded him in possession. Mr. Agg Gardner was held in the highest esteem by all parties, and the residents of his Manor testified their respect by honouring him with a public funeral. A subscription was set on foot, and cordially responded to for the execution of a memorial window of stained glass. It is placed in the chancel of the Parish Church, where he was a regular worshipper. The subject selected being the Good Samaritan—one most properly chosen, and fully illustrative of the private career of Mr. Gardner.

We have now traced the owners of the Manor from the last of the Saxon Monarchs down to its present Lord. We have seen that in its constitution it is of high antiquity, and that it has been held respectively by many royal and noble personages. In order to aid the reader to more readily trace out the various manorial proprietors or occupiers, we have arranged them in chronological order:—

OWNERS AND LESSEES OF THE CHELTENHAM MANOR FROM  
A.D. 1041, TO A.D. 1861.

King Edward the Confessor...	...	from 1041 to 1065
William the Conqueror ...	...	1066 1087
William Rufus ...	...	1087 1110
Henry I. ...	...	1110 1135
Stephen ...	...	1135 1154
Henry II. and Queen Eleanor ...	...	1154 1189
Walter de Hereford (lessee) ...	...	1154 1156
Richard I. ...	...	1189 1199
King John ...	...	1199 1216
Henry de Bohun (lessee under John ...	...	1199 —
Henry III. ...	...	1216 1272
Earl of Salisbury (grant from Henry II.) ...	...	1219 1226
William Espee, ditto ...	...	1226 1229
Bishop of Hereford, ditto ...	...	1229 1243
Abbey of Fescamp ditto ...	...	1247 1312
John Limel (lessee) ...	...	— 1309
Abbey of Montbury ...	...	1312 1415
Henry V. ...	...	1415 1422
Henry VI. ...	...	1422 1461
Edward IV. ...	...	1461 1483
Abbey of Sion ...	...	1466 1540
Sir Maurice Berkeley (lessee) ...	...	— —
Henry VIII. ...	...	1540 1547

Edward VI. ... ..	1547	1553
Queen Mary ... ..	1553	1554
Buckler and Lygon (lessees) ... ..	1554	—
Queen Elizabeth ... ..	1558	1603
Sir John Woolley, kt. (lessee) ... ..	—	—
W. Norwood, Esq. (lessee) ... ..	1589	1603
James I. ... ..	1603	1624
Prince of Wales (Charles the First) ... ..	1624	1628
John Dutton, Esq. ... ..	1628	1661
William Dutton, Esq. ... ..	1661	1675
Sir R. Dutton, Bart. ... ..	1675	1709
John Dutton, Esq. ... ..	1709	1743
J. Lennox Dutton, Esq. ... ..	1744	1776
Lord Sherborne ... ..	1776	1811
Lord Sherborne and F. Welles ... ..	1811	1820
Lord Sherborne ... ..	1820	1843
James Agg Gardner, Esq. ... ..	1843	1859
James Tynte Agg Gardner, Esq. ... ..	1859	—

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## CHAP. VI.

### Rights and Privileges of the Manor.

The jurisdiction of the Lord of the Manor extends over the copyhold property within the parish, and over a portion of the adjoining village of Charlton Kings. The rights and privileges both of the owner of the Manor, and of the copyholder, are clearly defined by Act of Parliament, as well as by customs, which have been practised from time immemorial. The tenure under which so large a portion of the town is held, has been considered by the highest legal authorities to be equal to Freehold in the security which it gives to the purchaser. Surrenders of estates, either by purchase or heirship, are continually being made—a practice of high antiquity, and one which is traceable so far back as the Saxon and Norman eras.

Rudge remarks, "By the customs of this Manor, lands descend as by common law, but there is no co-heirship. The eldest or youngest inherits solely. A surviving husband does not hold by courtesy, and the customary lands pass by surrender in the usual way. The greater part of the town consists of burgage tenures under the Manor; these now pass by lease and release, the grant by copy having been destroyed by a verdict of ejectment in 1717. To these, the right of commonage in the marsh, of about fifty acres, is solely appendant." James the I., to whom the Manor devolved, invested it in the names of trustees for the benefit of his son, the heir apparent to the throne, the Prince of Wales; afterwards, the unfortunate Charles the I. The practice of the Manor officials, up to that time, was founded upon ancient usages, which naturally led to disputes concerning the rights of copyholders, and the extent of the property over which the Lord had control. One of the first, (and we may add one of the wisest) acts which this Royal possessor did, was to define the boundary of his property, and to fix fees for surrenders and other protective items, by an act of the legislature. In order to carry out his intentions, a meeting of the copyholders was convened, and the matter fully discussed by both parties.

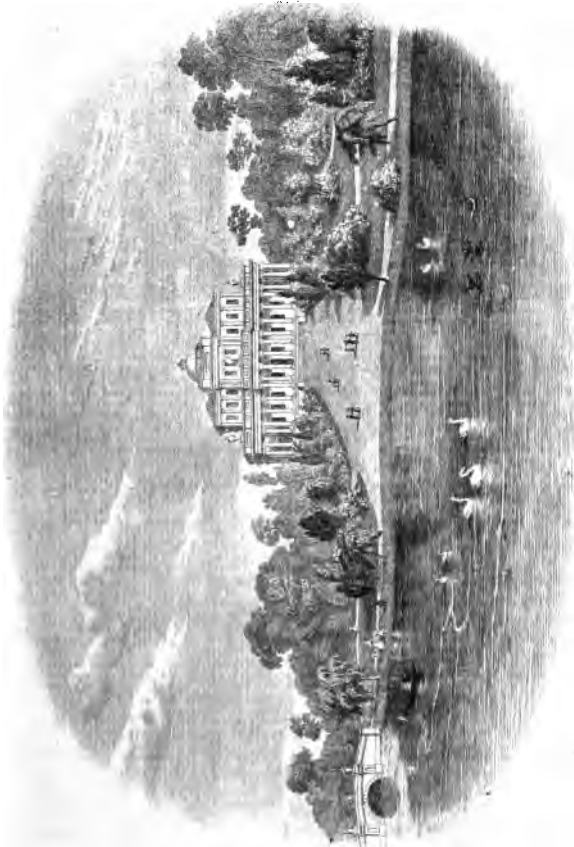
"On February 21, 1624, the agreement for settling the customs of the Manor was entered into between the copyholders and Prince Charles, being then Lord of the Manor. The tenants paid the Lord £1,200 for his consent to the Act in the following manner:—23rd February, 1624, £300; 10th November, 1624, £300; 15th February, 1625, £300 and £280; at Reading, where the term was kept by reason of the sickness at London, £20;—Total, £1,200" (Prinn). Having thus mutually come to terms with each other, the Lord and his tenants next proceeded to take steps for carrying matters into effect. The definition of the circuit of the manor was indeed a difficult task, but the difficulty was surmounted, to a great extent, by the judicious selection of a local jury, aided by a most eminent Surveyor belonging to the crown.

"The obscure state of the town rendered the positive extent of the manor uncertain in the seventeenth century, and consequently when it came into the possession of the Prince of Wales, he had to ascertain how far his right of land extended. Finding that the boundaries of the 'hundred and manor' had not been

properly defined in the legal conveyances, he appointed a court of survey to be held, in order to set at rest the question." The jury was composed of thirty-two of the principal inhabitant landholders, who were charged upon thirty distinct interrogatories, drawn up by that celebrated topographer, John Norden, Esq., who was then the surveyor-general of the possessions of the crown. The evidence taken on this occasion was so copious that it was recorded on thirty-nine presses of parchment. From this curious document, we learn what was considered the extent of the hundred upwards of two centuries ago. The following extract will furnish the reader with some interesting and valuable information on the subject. It is even at the present day the best account extant. The many alterations and improvements which new buildings have effected, make it difficult to trace out the boundary by the ancient names used ;—

MANOR BOUNDARY.—Jurors' Report A.D. 1625.—That the circuit of the Manor beginneth at Barbridge, North West, and from thence extendeth to Hawling-mill, and from thence to Furren-hill, and from thence to Swindon-brook, and from thence to Rye-hedge, and from thence to Mantle-meadow, and from thence to Swindon's gate, towards the north, and from thence to Morrice-hill, and from thence to Cheltenham-brook, and from thence extending along by the said brook to Cake-bridge, and from thence to Bouncer's-gate, and so to Hewlett's, and from thence to the stones upon Northfield-hill, towards the east, and from thence to Bowles-grove, from whence to Highwood-hill, and from thence to Ringbourne, and from thence to a little brook leading to Gules-quarr, and from thence to Whislye, and from thence to Hyde-piece End, and from thence to a piece called Office, and from thence to Richard Straford's piece, and from thence to Sowterley, towards the south, and from thence to Black-hedge, and from thence to Burley-field, and from thence to Lynn-acre, and from thence to Bandlands, and from thence to Lewens-laynes, and from thence to the Raynes, and from thence to Tymme-larrow, and from thence to the outside of Harterfield towards the west, and from thence to a house of Reynold Milton's, called the Brayyards, and from thence to Old-acre, and from thence to Barbridge aforesaid : which notable places are, and always of antiquity, were the limits, or the particular bound marks and meeres of the whole precincts or boundaries of the Manor. The Prince is the immediate and only chief lord of the soil within the Manor of Cheltenham, but of such soil as lieth without the Manor and within the hundred there are others who are lords thereof, but yet the Prince is lord paramount thereof, likewise the Prince, or his farmer, hath the liberty of fishing or fowling belonging to this Manor, and other liberty of profit or princely pleasure. That they know not of any freeholder, or customary hereditary tenant, that hath died without heir, general or special, but only one Robert Johnsons, who died without heir, possessed of two messuages, which escheated to the lord, who sithence granted the same to one William Whitehorne, in base tenure, to hold to him and his heirs according to the custom of the Manor. And do not know of any freeholders or burgagers which are dead, and their heirs have not come in, and done their fealties, and paid their reliefs ; and say that a customary tenant may surrender to his heir under





PITTVILLE SPA, CHELTENHAM.

age, without compounding without the Lord, but payeth fine and heriots, according to the custom in that behalf is certain. That all waifes, strays, felons, fugitives, and deodand's goods, with all their royalties, within the precincts of the Manor and hundred, and the members thereof, do belong and appertain to the Prince, or the farmer for the time being. That the benefit of fishing doth belong unto the chief lord of this Manor, or his farmer, and there is a brook that doth yield both trout and eels. That there is no land nor rents, to their knowledge, concealed, detained, or denied, other than the Church-house, which is standing most part in the Church-yard. That there is a wood called Orley-wood, which is in the possession of Thomas Nicholas, Esq., holden of the Prince by lease, under a yearly rent.

Having thus settled by a local jury the extent of the Manor over which he had control, the Royal Prince next proceeded to fulfil another part of his agreement—the securing of a new legislative enactment. In prosecuting this matter both parties seem to have acted in unison, and the question was speedily settled, and the rights of all concerned protected by the strong arm of the law.

The Act by which the customs of the manor are at present administered, was enacted in the first year of the reign of Charles I. It was introduced in the House of Lords on June 20; passed its second reading on June 25, and went into committee on June 28, 1625. The committee on the occasion was composed of the following distinguished persons:—The Bishops of Gloucester and St. David, Lord Treasurer, Lord Privy Seal, Lord President, Bishop of Durham, Lord Berkeley, Lord Conway, Lord Scrope, Lord Russell, Lord Danvers and Lord Spencer. The bill passed in the House of Commons on July the 4th following, without going into committee, and received the Royal Assent at Oxford on August the 1st, 1625. The rapid manner in which the Act passed both Houses of Legislature is remarkable. The small expense which was incurred in procuring this great boon is worthy of note, and forms a striking contrast to the heavy legal charges which have since attended the obtaining of our modern Local Acts. Prinn has preserved the items of expenditure, and we place them on record here as a curious illustration of the practice of the law in the seventeenth century. From this “bill of costs” it will be seen that the moderate sum of seventy-four pounds gave rights over property situated on an area of upwards of one thousand acres:—



## CHARGES OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS FOR PASSING THE CHELTENHAM MANORIAL ACT.

Mr. Elsing, clerk of the upper house...	£10	0	0
John Throkmorton, his clerk ...	2	0	0
Printing 57 breviatts ...	0	7	0
The lord keeper's fee ...	20	0	0
For the order of our committee ...	0	2	6
For writing the same ...	0	2	6
For reading the act in the upper house...	0	10	0
Sergeant Bridgman, for attending committee ...	1	0	0
Mr. Maxwell, the gentleman usher ...	8	0	0
To him, for wafers and ipocras for the lords...	4	0	0
Mr. Crane, the yeoman usher ...	3	0	0
The doorkeeper of the upper house ...	1	0	0
Mr. Parkinson, for attending committee ...	0	10	0
John Throkmorton, ditto ...	0	10	0
For engrossing the act ...	1	10	0
Mr. Elsing's fee, being above two skins ...	2	4	0
	£54	16	0

## CHARGES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir Thos. Crewe, the speaker...	£10	0	0
Mr. Wright, the clerk ...	4	0	0
To the sergeant and other officers...	4	0	0
Mr. Wright's two clerks...	1	0	0
To the doorkeeper ...	0	5	0
	£19	5	0
Charges of the House of Lords ...	54	16	0
Total amount ...	£74	1	0

The simplicity with which this invaluable and curious statement is drawn up testifies the sincerity of all parties concerned in the transaction. The tenants appear to have paid all the expenses thus incurred for securing their rights and privileges. Little did either the Prince, copyholder, or legislator imagine that when they were procuring this enactment for a small town, with its poor rural population, that the same place should afterwards be transformed into the wealthy "Queen of Watering Places," with its 40,000 inhabitants!

The Cheltenham Manor Act is, perhaps, one of the briefest and best of the kind ever passed in England. Its clauses are remarkably clear and simple, and it is, throughout, free from ambiguity. The security which it gives to the purchasers renders

the copyhold property of the town equal in all important respects to freehold. It gives privileges to the descendants of copyholders which are not conferred by the common law of the land. At the open courts, periodically called by public advertisement, surrenders of estates are made, and the owners enrolled, upon the payment of a fixed fee, and thus the purchase is quickly secured without any legal difficulty. As a large portion of the land upon which the town is built is copyhold, we shall publish the entire Act, feeling assured that it will be read with interest. Under the power of the new Act, the Manorial Court was held on June 3, 1629, since which period Courts have been regularly called. The original Act, as printed by the House of Commons in the reign of Charles the First, is a small octavo, and is a curious specimen of typography. A copy is in the possession of W. N. Skillicorne, Esq., J.P.

#### CHELTENHAM MANOR ACT.

An Act for the settling or confirmation of the Copyhold Estates and customs of the tenants in base tenure of the Manor of Cheltenham, in the County of Gloucester, and of the Manor of Ashley, otherwise called Charlton Kings, in the said County, being holden of the said Manor of Cheltenham, according to the agreement thereof, made between the King's most excellent Majesty, being then Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall and York, and Earl of Chester, Lord of the said Manor of Cheltenham, and Giles Greville, Esq., Lord of the said Manor of Ashley, and the said copyholders of the said several manors.

Whereas, within the said Manor of Cheltenham, and within the said Manor of Ashley, the said copyholders in base tenure of those several manors, having customary estates of inheritance, to them and to their heirs in their several customary messuages and lands, many questions and doubts have been of late made, touching their customs; many of them being uncertain, unreasonable, and inconvenient, that it hath caused many suits at law, and great expenses in money, and much loss and trouble, inasmuch that in many years past the said manors have yielded but little profit, either to lords or tenants; for remedy whereof, and for avoiding of suits, and for the quieting and establishing of the estates of tenants and their posterity within the said manors, there being a composition made, and an agreement had between our said Sovereign Lord the King's Majesty, being then Prince of Wales, and Lord of the said Manor of Cheltenham, with the advice of his then council and commissioners of his revenue, and the copyholders of the said manor, and between the said Giles Greville, Esq., Lord of the said Manor of Ashley, and of the copyholders of that manor, according to which compositions and agreements it is humbly desired by the said copyholders and tenants of the said several manors, that it be enacted.

And be it enacted, by the King's most excellent Majesty, the lords spiritual and temporal, and the commons in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same parliament, that the said copyholders of the said manors, and either of them, shall and may henceforth hold the said customary messuages and lands of the said manors, severally and respectively, by copies of court-roll, to them and to their heirs, by suit of court, and by the yearly rents, works, silver.

Peter-pence, and bread-reap money to be paid annually and respectively, double the rents only being payable by those copyholders not adding thereunto the work, reap-money, Peter-pence, and other payments.

And further, that the said copyholders, upon their several deaths and surrenders shall pay for and in lieu of an heriot, the sum of thirty shillings, for every messuage, and the lands and tenements thereunto belonging, or therewith used, and so according to that rate for the quantity, more or less, if it should happen, any messuage, lands, or tenements to be divided; and that the descents of the said customary lands shall be from henceforth in fee simple, according to the rules of common law.

Saving only, and be it also enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any copyholders of the said manors, or of either of them, shall die without male issue, having daughters, that the eldest daughter shall inherit solely, as the eldest son ought to do by the course of the common law; and if any of the said customary lands or tenements shall, or ought, according to the course of common law, to descend to any sisters, aunts, or female cousins, that then, in every such case, the eldest sister, aunt, or female cousin, shall inherit the said lands or tenements solely and alone.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all and every of the copyholders, of the said several manors, for the time being, shall and may surrender their several tenements and lands customary, or any part thereof, to the use of any person or persons, as well in open court before the steward of the said manors, for the time being, as out of court, before two copyholders at the least of the said manors respectively; and shall and may, likewise, make a grant of their several lands and messuages customary, or any part or parts thereof, to any person or persons, for the grantor's life, and 12 years after his decease, or for 12 or any less number of years, according as now the said copyholders may do, by the custom of the said copyholders paying to the said lords, severally and respectively, upon every grant for life, and 12 years, of a messuage with the lands and tenements thereunto belonging or therewith used, one whole year's ancient rent for a fine, and so according to the quantity of lands to be granted.

And be it likewise enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful, for every of the copyholders of the said manors, for the time being, to grant, limit, and assign, all, or any part of their several customary messuages and lands, to any of their wives, for the term of the life of any wife, for her jointure, paying a fine to the lords of the said manors respectively, upon every such grant of a whole messuage, with the lands and tenements thereunto belonging, or therewith used, half-a-year's ancient rent; and so, likewise, according to the quantity of the lands so granted; and that all and every such grants, limitations and assignments, so to be made as is aforesaid, shall be made either in open court, before the stewards of those several manors respectively, or out of court before two copyholders at the least of the said several manors respectively. And that such of the said surrenders, grants, limitations, and assignments, as shall be made out of court, shall be presented at the next public court of the said manors respectively to be holden upon lawful summons by those copyholders before whom such surrenders, grants, limitations and assignments, shall be made, or the survivor of them, upon pain of forfeiture to the lord of the manor within which the default shall be, ten shillings a-piece, to be levied or recovered by actions of debt, or distress, as shall seem good to the lord or the steward, or stewards of the said respective courts. And upon default of presenting such surrenders, grants, limitations, and assignments, at every public court that shall be holden as aforesaid, they shall forfeit such a sum as shall be imposed upon them by the steward or stewards of the said manors respectively, so that none of the said fines, so to be imposed, exceed the sum of twenty shillings a-piece for any one default; and

every such fine, so to be imposed, shall and may be levied and recovered as aforesaid.

And be it also enacted that such grants, limitations, and assignments, as aforesaid, shall be enrolled in the said court of the said several manors respectively paying to the steward for the enrolling and engrossing thereof, such fees as hath been accustomed.

Provided always, that all grants, at any time heretofore made, for the life of the grantor and twelve years after, or of or for any lesser term, according to the custom heretofore used, shall and may be enjoyed accordingly.

And further, be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the wives of all and every the copyholders of the said manors, and every of them, shall, from henceforth, have for dower, during their lives, the third part only of their husbands' customary lands; and the said third part to be set apart and assigned to them by the homage of the court wherein the presentment of the death of the husband shall be presented, or within such time next after the said court as shall be limited by the stewards in that behalf. But all such wife and wives as shall hereafter accept and take a jointure of their husbands' customary lands, within the said manors, or either of them, by grant, limitation, or assignment, as aforesaid, before her marriage, or shall accept of such a jointure after marriage, and agree thereunto, after the death of her said husband, shall be concluded and barred to demand any dower of those or customary lands of such husband, within the said manors, or either of them.

Provided always, that women now living, being heretofore wives of any of the copyholders of the said manors, or either of them, dying tenants, and also the now wives of any of the copyholders of the said manors, or either of them, shall, and may enjoy the customary lands of the now or late husband's dying tenants, for their lives and twelve years afterwards, as if this act had never been had or made.

And further, be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all and every the wife or wives of the copyholders of the said manors, or either of them, which shall join in any grant or surrender, with her or their husbands, of any the customary messuages or lands, being first solely or secretly examined in court, according to the custom there, shall be concluded and barred afterwards to claim any right, title, or estate, whatsoever, or in those lands so by her surrendered granted as aforesaid.

Be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no husband which shall hereafter be married to a wife, seized of any copyhold land within the said manors, shall have any power, right, or interest, by surviving the wife and fineing with the lord, or otherwise, by customs of the said manors, or either of them to have, hold, or keep, or otherwise to convey or dispose of the said lands from the right heir of the said wife; or that any woman which hereafter shall be married to a husband seized of any copyhold lands within the said manors, shall have any power, right, or title, by surviving her husband, or otherwise by the custom of the said manors, to have, hold, or keep, or otherwise to convey and dispose, the said lands from the heir of the said husband.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all customs and usages heretofore used and allowed within the said manors or either of them, concerning the having or enjoying of any of the said customary lands and tenements by any widow of the said customary tenants of the said manors, or either of them, or by any after taken husband of such widow, or by the heirs of any such wife or after taken husband, or concerning of the descending of any of the said customary lands or tenements to any other person or persons, or in any other manner or form than is herein-before declared, shall be utterly void and of no effect; and that all other lawful customs and usages heretofore used or allowed within the said manors, or either of them, not being repugnant and contrary to

the true meaning of this act, shall be and remain good and effectual, and are and shall be ratified and confirmed by the authority of this present act.

This brief and explicit act develops all that is required to be known of the legal connection between the copyholder and the Lord of the Manor. By virtue of its powers a title is given to all the property over which the manorial jurisdiction extends, which includes 1,200 acres, and upwards of 5,000 dwelling-houses. The Act is remarkable for the protection which it gives to the wife of the copyholder, so much so, that the husband cannot sell without her consent, which virtually gives her a legal interest in the estate. This clause in the act, (so different from the spirit of the common law which does not sanction the holding of Real Estate by females), was practically illustrated by events which occurred in the town in 1835. A Colonel Riddell, who was a very influential resident for many years, sold, at intervals, his property, which was of considerable value, and included the very extensive and once celebrated Wellington Mansion. At the time these sales were effected it was not known that the Colonel was a married gentleman. It appears that for some years previous he had not lived with Mrs. Riddell, and therefore no suspicion of her existence was excited. The Colonel died in 1825, and his widow, who probably did not hear of the circumstance for some years afterwards, laid claim to her Dower in 1830, and prosecuted her efforts for five years, until she had succeeded. This event attracted both local and general attention at the time. Owners of valuable property were surprised to find that after having paid their money they actually had no real title until the widow Dower's was satisfied. The following account from a local paper of the time will afford an idea of the means resorted to for obtaining legal occupation :—

#### THE WIDOW RIDDELL'S DOWER.

Considerable excitement prevailed in the neighbourhood of St. George's Place, during the past week, in consequence of attempts that have been made by the attorney of Mrs. Riddell and the homage, to obtain an entry upon the property, sold by her late husband, Col. Riddell, for the purpose of setting forth her dower, in pursuance of a *mandamus* issued by the Court of King's Bench. The following are the particulars of the case :—

The late Col. Riddell came to reside in Cheltenham about the year 1800—and subsequently became a person who dealt in lands and tenements within the Manor, and during a period of 20 years much property passed through his hands.

It is a custom of the Manor of Cheltenham, that the Widow of a Copyholder

shall have for Dower, one third part of *all* the property of which her husband may have been seised any time during the coverture should the husband alienate any portion of it, *without* her consent.

When the Col. came here he was separated from his wife, and having passed himself off as a single man, he succeeded, easily, in effecting various sales with different parties.

The Colonel died in 1825, but the Widow did not claim her Dower, on all the property, till 1830.

The claim for the Dower came on many poor families, widows, and children, like a thunder clap. The court of King's Bench directed a Mandamus, without forcible entry, to the Steward of the Manor to set out the Dower of the Widow; and in consequence, during the last few days, the Homage of the Manor has been paying visits to the different lands and tenements. The Homage was marshalled by the Widow's attorney; and the great ingenuity displayed by the party to gain admittance to the different houses was worthy of a better cause.

In Wellington-street, a few days since, they effected an entrance to a house during the temporary absence of the servant, who, when she returned, turned the key on them, and kept them in prison the chief part of the day.

In two other instances they succeeded in getting into houses, where there were sick ladies, one of which was the house of Mr. Vaile, detailed in our police report.

In fact, the tenants (about 50) against whom this claim is made, have been kept in a state of siege for some days, by the visits of the Homage and the zeal of their commandant, the attorney of the widow. Dower is also claimed out of Cheltenham Chapel and burying ground, which the belligerents hope, it is said, to gain possession of by following some funeral procession (*Cheltenham Free Press*, June 20, 1835).

The Manor Act is also notable for the valid manner in which it secures the rights and privileges of the Manor tenant in reference to the payment of fees. This is evident from the few litigations that have taken place between "the Lord and his holders," and when a legal dispute has arisen the copyholder has invariably gained the victory. A modern practice of multiplying surrenders and fees had arisen, and it was resolved to test the legality of the same by taking a case to a Superior Law Court. A public meeting was accordingly held of the Cheltenham Copyholders on February 21, 1853, at which Sir William Russell, Bart., M.P., Lord of the Manor of Charlton, presided. Resolutions were then passed in defence of the tenants, rights, and it was determined to prosecute their claims. The Court of Queen's Bench decided in favour of the copyholder on the question of fees and against the practice of the local Court—thus bearing testimony to the liberal and protective character of our Manor Act. At this meeting facts were adduced which strikingly manifest the ancient practices of the court compared with the present. In supporting the resolutions

two resident legal gentlemen of considerable practice in copyhold conveyancing, mentioned incidents which, from their historical bearing, we here record. S. H. Gael, Esq., barrister at law, remarked "that the ancient custom of the Manor was, that when a party was possessed of several lots of copyhold property, the whole might be sold or devised in one lot or mortgaged, in one document, and on the payment of one fee. This custom of late years had been broke in upon, and a separte fee was now demanded upon every separte lot of land, and in cases of trust, for every separate name inserted in the trust deed." J. Bubb, Esq., observed "To prove that one surrender was sufficient in law and custom for separte lots or property, he might cite the case of the De-la-bere property, consisting of a tract of land from Uckington to Charlton, and comprising a vast number of separate copyholds, having originally from 100 to 150 owners, and yet this property repeatedly passed from 1760, 1790 downwards to 1807, and was repeatedly treated as one entire property. If separate fees had been demanded for the De-la-bere estate, these transfers would have cost at least £3,000 (*Cheltenham Examiner*, February 23, 1853).

From time immemorial two Courts Leet have annually been held, (and the practice is still continued) during the months of November and May. A jury is summoned, presentments made, and the offices of High Bailiff, Bailiff of the Hundred, Tythingmen, Constables, and others of minor note filled up. A custom prevails which helps to perpetuate the origin of the Cheltenham Waters. It has been thus communicated to us by a long resident copyholder, Mr. C. Hale.

After the business is gone through the tenants assemble to the customary dinner, provided by the Lord of the Manor, usually held at the Plough Hotel. The discovery of the medicinal waters is perpetuated by the obligation on the landlord to put on the table two pigeons, which are attached to a ham, or some other joint of meat, and woe betide the unlucky carver if by accident or design they are displaced. Should a novice thus infringe the standing rule of the court he is sure to be heavily fined, as is also the Host should he omit to place them on the table.

Until the past few years the Manorial officials had very important work to perform, for, prior to the passing of the Commissioners, and Constabulary Acts, they were the only local sanitary conservators. We give some extracts from the Manorial Records which will strikingly illustrate what were the duties

incumbent upon juries at their annual assemblages, commencing with the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who was for five years the Lady of the Manor.

**NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MORE ANCIENT COURTS LEST OF THE MANOR, BOROUGH, AND HUNDRED OF CHELTENHAM.**

**AS TO WATERS.**—In 9 Eliz., 4 April.—At view of Frankpledge, an order was made to repair the sluice at the mill for the water to flow into the Town.

21st September.—The Miller at Cambray Mill was ordered to let the water flow through the sluice holes three days weekly.

Order.—That the tenant of Cambray Mill should have a sluice at the lower end of his pond, in the place accustomed, with three holes, through which the water may run three days every week, one to be bored with a yoke augur, the second with an inch augur, and the third a three-quarter augur. 3rd October, 3 Elizabeth.

Services and expenses of water courses, &c., were often districted, thus—

1. Orders are frequently made for the inhabitants of a part to cleanse the horsepool of the town. 6 Jac. 1, July 26th, 13 Eliz.

2. The inhabitants of the south-side of the street are to cleanse the ditches from the church stile to the mill sluice. 26th July, 13 Eliz.

Presentment of obstruction of water in the common pool. 7th April, 6 Eliz.

There appears to have been a common fountain or well at view of Frankpledge.

4 Eliz., 11th October. It was

Ordered.—That no one place things within 12 feet of the common fountain, and in 4½ Eliz., a person was presented for having taken and carried a post and heavy weight from the common fountain in Cheltenham street.

**AS TO WAYS.**—27th Feb., 5 Jac., 1.—Ordinance against driving any cart wain, or cattle, through the church path.

1st April, 6 Jac.—Presentment of making saw-pit in the highway.

License to erect a porch to a house upon the street.

9th Oct., 15 Jac.—Order to cut trees overhanging a highway.

2nd. April, 2 Eliz.—Order to make a causeway in the street.

3rd April, 1616.—Order for every householder, from the upper end of the town of Cheltenham to the lower end thereof, to pitch and pave before their houses the full breadth of five feet, whereby every passenger may travel thereupon.

**AS TO NUISANCES.**—7th April, 6 Eliz.—Presentment of the nuisance of a jakes and order to remove it.

Order to abate a gutter through which offensive matter was conducted to the King's highway.

**NUISANCES TO PRIVATE PERSONS.**—5th Dec., 7 Jac.—Order to John Hall to remove a dung-hill near the house of Wm. Stroud, so that it no longer be a nuisance to William Stroud.

**LODGINGS.**—1st April, 6 Jac.—Presentment of cottages built without four acres of land required by the statute.

15th April, 12 Jac.—Order that no person (not being town-born children) shall dwell in any house, tenement, cottage, or chamber within the hundred, or shall there remain above one month, but shall first give security to the constables or constable and churchwardens of that place for the time being to save the same parish harmless from all damages that shall arise by them, and that no person that



hath come and dwelt in any parish within this hundred, since the last date, without security given as aforesaid, shall remain one month after this date, upon paine that every such person shall forfeit for every month that he shall so continue without security given as aforesaid, &c.

Nothing is more common than presentments, that householders received inmates without taking security to exonerate the parish, and fines are imposed upon the inmates and their receivers. 6 Jac. 1., April, 1616.

**As to FIRE ENGINES.**—15th April, 12 Jac.—Every malster within the town of Cheltenham shall pay and provide before Whitsontyde next one or more buckets of leather, to be ready in their houses against any casualty of fire, and that every other able inhabitant of the towne shall pay all such sums of money as the constables and churchwardens, or the more part of them, shall tax upon them for the buying and making of sufficient ladders, rooches, and other small hooks, to be necessarily used at time of need (regard being had of such persons as have already bought buckets, or paid towards the buying of great hooks), upon paine that every person making default, or refusing to pay his several taxation shall forfeit *vi. vii. d.*

8th Oct., 10 Jac.—Particular persons ordered to amend their houses and make sufficient flues or chimneys against danger of fire.

1609.—Order to a person to make a chimney two feet higher than the top of his house for avoiding of the danger of fire.

Parties required to show their fire buckets 3rd April, 1616.

Order that no man inhabiting the town of Cheltenham should burn any candle in any outhouse, at any time, without a lantern.

Malsters not to make fires for drying malt after 10 at night.

Every inhabitant of Cheltenham setting a house to a tenant, is to make a sufficient chimney or flue, well daubed and plastered, 4 foot above the house, to prevent the danger of fire.

**As to PRECAUTIONS AGAINST OVER-CROWDING.**—5th April, 9 Jac.—Frankpledge. Presentment that Dobbins sounded his drum up and down the towne of Cheltenham, in the market, accompanied by R. Clerke and divers other young fellows; Clerke following Dobbins with a truncheon, like a lyvetenant or marshallman, and proclaiming, that whosoever would hear a play should come to the sign of the Crown. This the bailiffe of the towne misliking, the rather for the neighbouring townes of Tredington and Prestbury were then infected with the plague, and the towne itself much suspected, and greatly doubted, that the infection was there also, sent them to forbear; they reviled his messenger, and he had to go himself to suppress them, but they had departed. Their insolence and contempt of good government was punished at the Leet.

**As to POLICE.**—At view of Frankpledge. 15th April, 12 Jac.

Ordered that every householder within the town of Cheltenham (except only poore day labourers, and other poore persons), shall pay yearly towards the hire and maintenance of a beadle, to punish vagrants and other persons, according to a statute, such some or somes of money as shall be taxed upon them by the constables and churchwardens, or the more part of them, not exceeding 6d. a-piece per annum, upon paine that every such householder refusing to pay the same shall forfeit for every such refusal 11s. 11d.

In further illustration of the practice of the court at different periods we annex transactions of a more recent occurrence. From

these extracts it will be seen that deaths of copyholders were "presented," and that the commonable fields were under the control of the manor. This then extensive tract of land, on which many of our most valuable houses are now built, was free to the inhabitants, who turned out their cattle to graze upon it. They were deprived of this ancient custom by the Enclosure Act of 1801, which gave the property to the lay Impropiator, Mr. Pitt.

**The Presentment of the Homage of the Court Leet and Court Baron holden for the Manor and Hundred of Cheltenham on the 18th Day of April, 1710.**

ITEM.—We do present the death of Henry Jefferies, and that Henry Jefferies is his next haier. We do also present the death of Ann Ashmead, widdew, and we know not the haier.

We do continue to order that Thomas White, of Cheltenham, so keepe his mound in good repair, between John Ellis his foot ball land, and Thomas White, upon paine of six shillings and eightpence for making default.

We do present the death of William Robson, of Charlton Kings, and that William Robson is the next haier.

We do order that no sheep shall be kept in Cheltenham fields until harvest be ended in all the said fields upon paine of thirty-nine shillings for making default therein; and we do also order that there shall not be any pigs kept within the said fields upon the same penalty aforesaid.

We do present George Harris for the breach of an order made the last court for not cutting his hedges in Ham furlong, upon penalty of six shillings and eightpence, and we do further order Charles Harris to do the same in fourtown in the day time, on penalty of thirteen shillings and fourpence.

We do order that no mannor of cattle shall be kept in Allstone fields until the fields be clearly rid, upon penalty of thirty-nine shillings for every man making default therein.

We do order that no man shall keepe any mannor of cattle in Arle fields, until the fields be entirely rid, upon the same penalty before mentioned in the tything of Allstone.

We do order that no man shall keepe not exceeding two sheepe

to one acre of land in Cheltenham fields on penalty of thirty-nine shillings for making default.

We do present the death of one William Roberts, a customary tenant, and that his son William is next haier, and that he is twenty-one years of age.

JOHN ELLIS.

THOMAS MASON.

RICHARD WHITHORNE.

JOHN ASHMEAD.

JOHN WOSTON.

Queen Mary, upon taking possession of the manor, let it on lease for a term of years. The lessees were the legal representatives of two ancient resident families—the Lygons. Mrs. Catherine Buckler, and Roger Lygon, Esq., leased, or "farmed" the estate during their joint lives, and they appear to have taken some interest in their property. To them we are indebted for the commencement of a record of events connected with the manor. The roll of the court is in a good state of preservation. The first entry is in the year 1555, the second year of the reign of Queen Mary. Some of the incidents entered reveal not only the workings and operation of the manorial law, but also the social and political character of the times to which they belong. In relating the descent of a family of the name of Holder, entitled to some land by heirship, some most extraordinary circumstances are brought to light, which, we presume, are without a parallel in any parochial record. The "surrender" was made during the last year that King Charles held the manor, and it was transacted just prior to the sale to the Sherborne family. This curious specimen of the legal and social practices of the seventeenth century is as follows:—

At a court held Friday, Sept. 19, Charles I. 1628.

Wm. Holder

John Holder

Edw. Holder

John Holder

Wm. Holder

Wm. Holder

Edw. Holder

Philip Holder

William Holder the great uncle having a wife him surbiving,

which wife marryeth one Packer, and she dyeth, and Packer being a prisoner in Worcester Gaile, the gaoler marryeth him to his daughter under the age of 12 years, and presently after the marriage, the same day Packer dyeth, and afterwards one Gower marryeth the said gaoler's daughter whom Packer had so married, and they two afterwards, when she came to age, surrendered the land in court to others and their heirs, and Gower and his said wife are yet living. Packer never paid his fine to the Lord, nor could he, because he died presently the same night after his marriage; and so Gower gained nothing by the marriage, because Packer had by his marriage with the widow Holder only his life and years which have long since expired."

This remarkable entry is a domestic drama complete in itself. The marriage of a female "12 years of age," and the death of her husband the same day, are curious incidents, and such as we should only expect to find in the fiction of the novelist.

In a rare work which appeared in the reign of Charles I., entitled "The Country Man's Councillor, beginning with this yeere of our Lord God, 1630," (in the possession of G. Hulbert, Esq., of this town, and whose family have been for a long period copyholders), the old manorial customs are thus quaintly detailed,—"In the Maner of Cheltenham, in Gloucestershire, is a custome that a man cannot marry his daughter to any man, neither can a widow marry without the Lord's licence, and if a man by his wife have neuer so many children and dye, his widow may marry another man, and he shall carry away all the land after the death of his wife from all the former children, and he may marry again to be a hundred yeeres old, with a girl of but 18 or 14 yeeres old, and she shall carry away the land from all the heires. Some Mannors doe allow the tenants of the same to let the land for three yeeres, some for more without the Lord's licence, when in some others to let the same for above a yeere is a forfeiture, and neither, though he let it but for one yeere, may he let it out a second, till he have kept it a year in his hands, except he have a licence."

We have now delineated the legal connection that exists between the owner of the manor and his tenant by purchase. Another very interesting branch of the subject is the ancient customs which the manorial officers practised. The lord and his steward formerly filled the responsible trust of adjudicating for all criminals and other law business in the borough. This and other curious manorial practices will be found fully detailed in the next chapter.



## CHAP. VII.

### Ancient Customs of the Manor.

FROM the first dawn of English History the Manor of Cheltenham has enjoyed customs and exemptions of a remarkable and important character. From the fact of its being both a place of antiquity, and the property of Royalty, it has been privileged and favoured by successive owners. So early as the Saxon King, Edward the Confessor, a charter was granted to the place, which was confirmed by William the Conqueror. Among the privileges therein contained, was exemption from tolls throughout England, which was confirmed by successive charters. In the reigns of Henry III., Edward III., and IV., the Cheltenham Manor was invested with additional chartered rights to a great extent; and it is an interesting fact, that not only our Manorial records, but also the Parliamentary Rolls, detail the whole of those privileges with minuteness at the time they were severally granted. Henry III., six hundred years ago, gave to the borough a market and a fair. In following years, successive grants were made, and ultimately, Cheltenham acquired privileges of greater importance than any place of its extent in Great Britain. A few of these ancient rights will be referred to with

a view to demonstrate that Cheltenham was once as famous for its chartered liberties, as it now is for its Spa waters. The inhabitants of the manor were exempt after the thirteenth century, from the many heavy taxes paid by the country generally, and from the payment of all toll throughout England. The goods of all felons, *felo de sees*, and outlaws, within the hundred, as well as all fines, which then, and even at the present day, were the right of the crown in every part of Great Britain, the Lord of the Manor had the power to receive. The Manorial steward was also a justice of the highest authority, having the power to try and commit offenders; a branch of this local jurisdiction was the holding of a "Three weeks' Court" for the recovery of debts, and many minor objects. This valuable privilege has never been abrogated by any subsequent act, and it is only lost to us by disuse. After the Court had ceased to be summoned for about a century, an application was made to Parliament for its revival, but without success. The loss of this ancient right is now no longer felt. The New County Court Act gave to Cheltenham the privilege it much needed. The County Court Hall in Regent-street, is open weekly for the hearing of cases, and the presiding judge, J. Francillon, Esq., resides in the locality.

The trial and execution of criminals within the Manor is also a tradition of long standing. Coltham-lane, was sometimes called "Hangman's-lane," and an oak which stood by its side was called "Gallows Oak," from a belief that the condemned criminals were executed upon it. This oak is yet remembered by many of the old inhabitants, and its lofty and gigantic appearance is alluded to by Gilpin, the eminent describer of picturesque scenery. From the documents of the middle ages down to a comparatively recent date, the designation applied to this spot sufficiently indicate its origin. In the Manor Records it is styled "Gallows Lane," and in the Enclosure Award "the Ancient Lane called Hangman's Lane." There are various persons in ancient times who resided in the town who are mentioned as having been "attained for high treason," and for other minor offences, and it is therefore probable that the sentence might have been carried into effect on the "Gallows Oak." This judicial tree stood on the angle of the roads leading to Charlton and Sandford, facing the entrance to the

High-street, and near the site of Paynter's Paper Hanging Manufactory.



Our illustration represents this oak as given by Dalrymple, in his plan of Cheltenham, published in 1806. On that map a turnpike is placed near the tree, which is described as "Gallows Oak Turnpike." In the grant of the Manor to the Abbey of Fescamp, in the fourteenth century, the expression "Gallows lands" twice occurs. This would imply that according to the practice of the times, that land was left to the lord of the manor to enable him to maintain the instrument of death. Similar language is used in the manorial records of Sheepscombe, near Stroud ;—" Sir Anthony Kingston, lord of the manor of Painswick, had a gallows erected on Sheepscombe Green, for the punishment of insurgents in the reign of Edward VI., and a prison built in Painswick for the confinement of offenders, and gave three estates to his lordship, now called Gallows lands ; one to maintain the gallows ; a second to keep two ladders always ready ; and the third for halters ; and provided that the tything man of this tything should be hangman, and have an







acre of land for his services, which is now called Hangman's Aere" (Rudge).

Other privileges were the election of a Coroner, who acted only for the manor; exemption from supporting the eldest sons of Kings; the right of sending two Parliamentary representatives, and also of choosing justices of the peace. Cheltenham, indeed, possessed rights to an immense extent; it formed an independent district uncontrolled by statute laws of the realm, and so many and extended were its judicial privileges, that it had the power of erecting a pillory and a gallows, for the punishment of prisoners tried at its own local court.

These interesting facts, we have before remarked, have been elicited both from manorial and national records. It is gratifying to be enabled to confirm their correctness by publishing their recapitulation from an invaluable M.S. John Prinn, Esq., an ancestor of the well known Prinn family, of Charlton Park, and whose family history will be found in the succeeding chapter, was one of the most indefatigable collectors of unpublished local records in the reign of Charles II. He filled the office of steward of this manor in 1690, and the careful mode in which he registered the manorial proceedings of his day, proves his ability and faithfulness. He left behind him a quantity of manuscript books; one of the number, written in a clear style, is now in the possession of J. S. Cox, Esq. This M.S. work recites the ancient rights of our manor, with the dates when some of them were first granted, and arranged in the following manner:—" *Customs of the Manor*.—Within this manor are sundry franchises and liberties, which are very rarely found in any other manor within the realm, viz.—To make justices of assize, justices of coram and of peace, custos rotulorum, sheriffs, high and low—stewards, high and low—bailiffs, high and low—bailiffs of the borough—escheater and coroner within the hundred and liberty. And that no manner of out-officers shall have to do within the franchise or liberty, but by a special commission from the Lord of the Manor and Hundred.' In the 31st of the reign of King Henry the Third, the abbey of Fescamp, in Normandy, exchanged the manors and hundreds of Cheltenham and Slaughter for Winchelsea and Rye. The King granted the said manors to the said Abbeyes, with all laws, liberties, customs, pleas, complaints, and causes, without diminution of any secular or judicial power

or things thereto belonging, and that the same manors and hundreds might be quit from all earthly customs and from every gift and subjection to barons or princes; and that the abbot and monks might have all royal liberty and customs, and all justice of all things and business, that within the said manors and hundreds might arise; nor should any except themselves interfere, because the whole of this royal gift is from all service quit, as in the charters of Edw. (Confessor), William (Conqueror), and Henry the First, Kings of England, more fully is contained—but if any one should presume any thing contrary to this gift and confirmation, he having been summoned before the Exchequer, shall pay one hundred pounds of gold. By 40, Edward III., the grant to the abbot and monks of Fescamp is confirmed of the manor and hundred of Cheltenham, and that they might have liberties, viz.—view of frankpledge of all tenants and resiants, cognizance of all pleas whatsoever, as well of the crown as of common pleas—their own gaols to be delivered of whatever homicides and other criminals, by their own proper bailiffs; return and execution of writs, fines, amerciaments, &c.; neither the steward nor marshal shall enter in the same, and that they be quit of toll all over England.”

The 5th of Edward IV. states the terms of the grant to the abbess of Sion in Middlesex, to the abbess and nuns and their successors, and to all the men tenants residing and not residing, and all others residing in all and singular the manor and lordship of the said abbess and convent; to wit, “to be free of all toll, carriage of treasure, and to make kings’ eldest sons knights, marriage of kings’ eldest daughters, aid to sheriffs; charges of knights and burgesses of parliament, fines to the sheriffs’ torns, suit to the sheriffs’ torns, views of frankpledge, leets, law days, &c., wapentakes, assize of wine, beer, and bread, tolls of the market, waifs, treasure trove, shipwrecks, deodands, felons’ goods, escapes of felons, and that they should erect and have gallows, pillory, and tumbrill for the punishment of malefactors; and all fines for license of concord, and all fines and forfeitures of bailers and sureties, free warren, courts from three weeks to three weeks of all actions before the stewards or bailiffs, ward, marriage, and reliefs, &c., and all pleas, as before stated, with power to attach by their bodies, and commit to prison; and that no sheriff or other officer of the crown shall have power in the said lordship.”

In the same valuable M.S. work is preserved an account of an event which also strikingly demonstrates the past customs and privileges of Cheltenham from time immemorial. It is the relation of a trial which took place between Queen Elizabeth's Attorney-General and W. Norwood, Esq., of Leckhampton, the then Lord of the Manor, respecting the many claims and exceptions which he exercised. The opening speech of the Attorney-General details the whole of the obsolete rights, as follows:—" *Hilary Term, 32nd Elizabeth—Regina v. Norwood.*—By a judgment of the Court of Exchequer, John Popham, the Queen's Attorney-General, gave the Court to understand that Wm. Norwood, Esq., useth without any legal grant, within the Lordship of Cheltenham, the liberties privileges, and franchises following, therein fully set forth—" that all men, tenants, resiants and not resiants, and all others residing and not residing within the aforesaid lordship, &c., and all goods, chattels, and merchandizes of the same and every of them, may be quit throughout England from all pannage, &c., and from all other toll—from all soot and geld, &c.; and from conducting all treasure, and from all manner of custom, and from all aids to make knights of the eldest sons of kings and to marry eldest daughters of kings; and from the expense of sending knights and burgesses to Parliament, and from all fines and issues of the county and sheriffs' torn and hundred, and from all tolls, &c., although the same men were tenants, officers, and ministers of our said lady the Queen, &c. And to have and hold within the said lordship, view of frankpledge, leets, law-days, and wapentakes, of all men, &c., in whatsoever places to be appointed by the said William Norwood, his heirs and assigns—by the stewards or officers to be holden, together with assize and assats; and the assize of bread, beer, and all other victuals, and measures and weights whatsoever, that to the officer or clerk of the market of the Queen's household, belong to do and execute, with all profits therefrom arising, and with soc, sack, &c., treasure trove, wreck of the sea, deodands, chattels of felons, outlaws, felo de se, escape of felons, year, day, and waste, within the lordship; and that the said William Norwood, his heirs and assigns might erect and have gallows, pillory, and tumbrill, in any place within the said lordship, that to him may seem meet for the punishment and judgment of malefactors, which should happen

to be apprehended within the liberties aforesaid ; and to have all fines, as well for licence of concord as other fines, and all amerciaments, redemptions, and forfeitures, as well before the Queen, her heirs or successors, as before the chancellor, treasurer and barons of the Exchequer, her justices and commissioners, to be done, forfeited, and adjudged of all residents in the said manor — and also pledges and main-pernors of the same, although same residents, of the said Queen or others, lands and tenements, had held, and although they, or any of them be officers or ministers of the Queen, her heirs or successors, and although the said pledges or main-pernors were or were not tenants of the said William Norwood, or residents or not residents within the said lordship, and to have free warren in the said lordship, and to have and hold before a steward and his bailiff's from three weeks to three weeks, courts for complaints, all manner of pleas, accounts, debts, detention of charters, writings, muniments, and chattels, of the taking and detention of cattle and chattels of transgressors by force of arms or otherwise in contempt of the said Queen, contrary to the form of the statute, and of agreements, contracts, and personal actions, within the said lordship, in like manner to hold for whatever sums, accounts, debts, chattels, or injuries, transgressions, or agreements, and of any pleas, &c., and persons against whom such like complaints in the court aforesaid should happen to be moved, by their bodies to be attached, and committed and detained in prison, and to hear all pleas, and those by like process, consideration, and judgment execution of judgment, to be treated and terminated, as in pleas of like sort in the court of our said lady the Queen, and to have cognizance of all pleas of any contracts and actions, real, personal, and mixed, and all other pleas within said lordships ; and all other complaints, as well pleas of assize as replevia within said lordship, happening, done, or arising, as well before our lady the Queen as before the chancellor, treasurer, and barons of the exchequer, justices to hold pleas, justices of the common bench, and justices of assize, as well general as special, and that the same pleas before the said steward or bailiffs in court aforesaid, should be had, held, discussed and terminated, and judgment given and executed upon the same in the manner aforesaid — and to have the return of all writs of every nature, &c., and that no sheriff

or other officers or ministers of the crown should attach within said lordship, but it should be commanded that the said William Norwood or his heirs or ministers do execution thereon, and that no escheator, minister or bailiff of the Queen in the said lordship, should enter to do or execute anything;’ of which liberties, &c., the said William Norwood then and as yet doth usurp. Whereupon the said Queen’s attorney-general doth seek the advice of the court, and that the said William Norwood be required to show by what warrant he claimeth the said privilege. Whereupon it was commanded that the said William Norwood do appear.” Thus we see that Queen Elizabeth’s Attorney-General in framing the indictment specified the whole of the important privileges in use, or claimed to be used by the then Lord of our Manor. There are a few words employed which require explanation—“*Tumbrill*”—a cucking stool, or ducking stool; a machine used for the correction of scolds and unquiet women (Crabb’s Technological Dictionary). “*Cuck*,” “*guck*,” or “*duck*,” in Saxon, signified to scold or brawl; and “*ing*,” in that language, signified water; because a scolding woman was for her punishment soused in that water (Lord Coke). “*Ducking stool*”—The woman was convicted upon an indictment for being a common and turbulent brawler and sower of discord amongst her honest and quiet neighbours (Burn’s Justice). This was the ancient method of punishing scolding women:—A post was set up in a pond. Across this post was placed a transverse beam, turning on a swivel, with a chair at one end of it, in which, when the culprit was properly placed, that end was turned to the pond, and let down into the water (Manning’s Surrey). “*Pannage*.”—The feeding of swine upon masts in woods; also the money paid for the license of having pannage, and a tax upon cloth—(Stat. Westr. 2, 13 Edw. III.) “*Geld*”—The value or price of a man or beast slain; or a tribute for other customary things (Ibid).

William Norwood obeyed the summons, and in person conducted his own defence, and in doing so detailed all the rights, as well as many of the manorial possessors. There is not probably on record an instance of a similar case being so ably argued and explained. The defendant’s address which took some time in delivery—travelled through many centuries of history, and manifested the most laboured research, as will be

seen from what follows ;—“ On the octaves of the purification of the Virgin Mary, the said William Norwood appeared, and said that he intendeth not that the said Lady the Queen should be prejudiced, because he saith that long before the exhibiting of the said information, Elizabeth, late abbess of the late dissolved monastery of St. Saviour and the Saints Mary the Virgin and Bridget of Sion, of the order of St. Augustin, in the county of Middlesex, was seised of the said lordship of Cheltenham in right of her said monastery, the said late abbess being seised, Lord Edward, late king of England the Fourth, on the 24th of March, in the fifth year of his reign, made the letters patent, to the effect hereinbefore stated (vide charter 5th Edward 4th) and he thereby confirmed all privileges to the said abbess or any of her predecessors by any of his progenitors granted ; and granted them powers to exchange the said lordships for others, and he granted them all said privileges, and that all the said charters and every of them should be expounded against the said king and his heirs, and applied to the best advantage, profit, and utility of the said abbess and her successors, without any revocation or resumption of the premises by authority of any parliament of the said king or his heirs,—notwithstanding the order, foundation of the said monastery, or the annual value or certainty of the said lordships, or other gifts or grants to the said abbess or her predecessors, by the said king, or any of his predecessors, in any of their charters, should be defective, or stated incorrectly. By pretext whereof the said abbess was seised of the liberties, &c., in the said information specified, and died so seized ; after whose death, Agnes, late abbess of said dissolved monastery, was elected and presided, and was seised of said franchise, &c., &c. ; and being so seised, she, with consent of her said monastery, on the 20th of May, in the 31st year of the reign of the lord, the late king Henry VIII., by a certain writing, sealed with the common seal, enrolled in Chancery, granted and surrendered to the said late king, as well the said monastery as the manors aforesaid, and liberties aforesaid, to hold to said king, his heirs, and successors for ever. And afterwards by act of parliament of said late king, it was enacted that said late king should have and enjoy to him and his successors for ever, all such monasteries, &c., which after the 4th of February, in the 27th year of his reign, were dissolved, &c. ; or

in any way came to his hands, in as ample and large a manner and form as the late abbots, abbesses, &c., previously held or enjoyed the same in right of their monasteries, &c.; and that the sites of the said monasteries, manors, lordships, &c., rights, privileges, &c., to the same belonging, should be fully and effectually vested in said king, his heirs and successors. And by a certain other act passed in the aforesaid parliament, on the 28th of April, in the 31st year above mentioned, and by divers prorogations, continued to the 24th of July, in the 32d year, it was enacted, that all liberties which the aforesaid late proprietors had used or could by themselves, their officers, or ministers, have used, within three months, next before the said sites, &c., came into possession of the said king, were, by said act, revived and vested in said king. And said William Norwood saith, that said abbess, within three months before the dissolution of said monastery, did lawfully use and exercise the liberties, &c., in said information stated; and that the said late king, by virtue of such surrender and acts of parliament, was seized of said manor and privileges, &c., and died so seized thereof; upon whose death the said lordship and liberties descended to Lord Edward the 6th, late king of England, who also died seized thereof, without heir of body issuing; upon whose death, the said lordship and liberties descended to Lady Mary, late queen of England, who married Philip, king of Spain, and the said king and queen became seized thereof; and on the 26th of October, in the first and second years of their reign, by their letters patent, bearing date the same day, granted to Roger Lygon, and Catherine Buckler, late wife of Sir Walter Buckler deceased, the said lordship and privileges aforesaid, to hold, to said Roger and Catherine, and their assigns, for their lives and the life of the longest liver, by virtue of which letters they became seized; and the said Roger and Catherine being so seized, and our lady the now queen, of the reversion being seized, on the 25th of June, in the 16th year of her reign, by her letters patent, now produced, reciting the demise and grant to said Roger and Catherine, granted the reversion of the said lordship, with all rights, liberties, &c., as before mentioned, to hold, to John Woolley, esquire, and his assigns, from the death of said Roger and Catherine, for the term of thirty-one years, by virtue of which he became possessed thereof; and the



aforesaid Roger and Catherine, before the usurpation above supposed to have been made, to wit, on the 20th of July, in the 28th year of our said now lady, the queen, died seised; upon whose death, the said John Woolley became seised, and being so seised, on the 1st of October, in the 31st year of the reign of our said queen, by his writing, sealed with his seal and now produced, granted to the said William Norwood, all his estate, interest, and term of years, in said lordship, &c.; by virtue of which grant, the said William Norwood, entered, and was and is seized thereof, and of the liberties, &c., and yet useth the same; all and singular of which premises the said Wm. Norwood was prepared to verify, and prays judgment, and that he be dismissed."

The voluminous facts proved by Wm. Norwood, were incontrovertible; the suit was terminated in his favour, and our manor was confirmed in the use of its old charters, as the conclusion of Mr. Prinn's manuscript clearly sets forth:—"And her Majesty's Attorney-General having seen the plea of said Norwood, and examined the said letters patent, and that it was evident to him that said Norwood used such liberties according to the form of said letters patent, &c., the same attorney acknowledges the plea aforesaid to be true, and that he will not prosecute farther; and judgment was given for the said William Norwood." The Norwood family were long and intimately connected with the place. Mrs. Anne Norwood, in 1628, erected a gallery in the west side of the Parish Church. The churchyard contains many monuments to their memory down to within the last forty years. The Tryes, of Leckhampton, are the family representatives.

Another source from whence we derive information respecting our local customs is a manuscript journal of the Rev. Francis Welles, vicar of Prestbury, and Justice of the Peace for the county from 1715 to 1756, during the whole of which period it is plain that the writer was a most active magistrate, and a diligent and pains-taking attendant at Petty and Quarter Sessions and Assizes. This curious diary was published for the first time in the Law Magazine for May, 1861. The writer was the son of the vicar, and the family have, for more than a century, been connected with the town, various members having in succession filled the offices of Justice of the Peace, and Steward of the Manor. The first entry is—

"December ye 4th, 1714. I was sworn in a Justice of the Peace for the county of Gloucester." As the writer is recorded by his son to have died May 30, 1756, aged about 90, having been above 40 years an acting justice of the peace, he was probably born about the year of the Great Fire of London, 1666, and as he was placed in the commission of the peace, at nearly 50 years of age, and within three months of the landing of Geo. I. the reviewer reasonably infers that he was a staunch friend of the House of Brunswick. This opinion is justified by an early entry in the journal, which tells us that he bound over John Hill, of Cheltenham, and another, in 40*li.* for the appearance of Mary Careless, at the next Quarter Sessions, for saying twice King George was a Papist dog; and Mary Hill for answering, "No, he was a Presbyterian." Another entry is to the same effect. "Thomas Eyres, spectacle maker, of Gloucester, ten : in 20*li.* to appear at the next Quarter Sessions, for singing a seditious song, and saying he would do it whether it were for or against the government; John Gouddell, of Cripplegate, London, Gent. ten : in £20 to prosecute; and William Jefferis, of Cheltenham, shoemaker, ten : in 5*li.* to give evidence." Mr. Welles issued a warrant against "Wm. Lyea, convicted by his own confession of stealing wood from Mr. Baghot, to pay 2*s.* or be whipped;" and in the following February, he grants a warrant "to whip Jane Clement, of Bishop's Cleeve, for hedgebreaking and stealing wood from Wm. Hobe." Jane Richardson is ordered to be placed in the stocks for two hours for "twice profanely cursing." Margaret Mealing and Jane Arcol are punished for "haunting ale-houses with lewd fellows; and Frances Williams is ordered to appear before him on 13 April, 1715, "to be examined about her big belly." The examination appears to have been a difficult one, for a few weeks afterwards, she comes before him again, "touching the aforesaid felony." On the 7th April, 1716, Mr. Welles, granted a warrant against Thomas Nicholls and Richard Robbins, late overseers of the poor of Cheltenham, "for relieving *without a badge*, and other misdemeanours." This was under the old statute, 8th and 9th Wm. III. c. 30, s. 2, which required, in order that money raised for the relief of the poor might not be misapplied, every person as should be upon the collection and receive relief of any parish or place, and the wife and children of any such person, cohabiting in the same house should, upon the shoulder of the right sleeve of the upper garment, in an open and visible manner, wear a large Roman P, together with the first letter of the name of the parish or place whereof such poor person is an inhabitant, cut either in red or blue cloth, as by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor should be appointed.

## CHAP. VIII.

*Visit of King Edward IV., A.D. 1471.*

THE town is incidentally connected with one of the most memorable battles of the fifteenth century. It was through Cheltenham that Edward the Fourth and his brave army marched to the plains at Tewkesbury there to decide the fate of the Lancasterian party. It was here that he rested with his followers and recruited their strength "with such provision of vittels as he had appointed to be conveyed forth with him." It was here that he learned for the first time that the military strength of the House of Lancaster was encamped within an easy march of his soldiery. It was from here that he proceeded upon the receipt of such information, and with his characteristic skill, slumbered not, but hastened onwards his army and won the celebrated battle of Tewkesbury. This event, although of local occurrence, from its very nature is of a national character, and one which at the time affected all Europe. The origin of this battle is referable to the heroism and military spirit of one of the most resolute Queens that ever reigned. Although deprived of her royal husband's aid, Queen Margaret actually fought twelve battles in his behalf. The Queen having been prevented from crossing the Severn on account of the city of Gloucester, which as well as Cheltenham was in the hands of her rival Yorkist, King Edward, hastened to Tewkesbury. She arrived there May 3rd, 1471, having travelled during the preceeding night, thirty-six miles. On the same day King Edward entered Cheltenham. "The news of the approach forced the Queen to make entrenchments, and to prepare for war." The King marched into the future "Queen of Watering Places," with an army "consisting of three thousand infantry and a large body of cavalry." He arrived in the afternoon, having had a long and tedious journey in a very hot day. He pursued his career, and at day-light next morning, which was Saturday, May 4th, 1471, he faced his antagonists, displayed his banners and blew his trumpets for battle. "As the road from

Cheltenham to Tewkesbury then ran through Elmstone Hardwick and Tredington, we may venture to suppose that at one of those places, King Edward and his army rested for the night" (Bennett's History of Tewkesbury).

The visit of King Edward to the town during his march to the far famed battle of Tewkesbury, is detailed by Holinshed in his "Chronicle," and is here quoted verbatim. It confirms the fact that Cheltenham was then connected with "one of the high roads to Bath." The brave Queen Margaret had reached Tewkesbury by way of Gloucester through Berkeley. The King had passed the preceeding night at his camp at Sodbury, from whence he marched with his army over the Cottswold Hills to Cheltenham. Messengers had been dispatched from Tewkesbury to acquaint him that the opposing army were drawn up in battle array, and they made him acquainted with the fact upon his arrival here. Upon his receiving this news, he "took a little refreshment himself," and ordered his army to have provisions given them also. This having been done he marched onward, passing through the villages of Elmstone Hardwick and Tredington *en route*, and took part in an engagement, which led to results connected with the throne of England, whose influence extends to the present day, by causing the lasting annihilation of the long standing jealousies that had existed between the rival Houses of York and Lancaster. The old and faithful historian before mentioned thus narrates the arrival and departure of this brave and warlike Monarch. "Edward the fourth, on his way to Tewkesbury, to meet Queen Margaret, came to a village called Cheltenham, where he had certain knowledge that his enemies were already come to Tewkesbury, and were incamped there, purposing to abide him in that place and to deliver him battell. King Edward thereupon made no long delaie, but took a little refection himself, and caused his people to doo the like, with such provision of vittels, as he had appointed to be conveyed forth with him for the reliefe of himself and his armie. This done hee set forward towards his enemies, and lodged that night in a field not past three miles from them." In ancient as in modern times the inhabitants of Cheltenham appear to have sided with royalty in all disputes, whether civil or ecclesiastical, and there are circumstances to favour the opinion that they espoused the cause of King

Edward on this occasion. The King was then the owner of the borough, and he was therefore a sojourner among his own people, and on his own land. By his grant the rent of the manor was received by the Religious Institution at Sion, but the lessee was Sir Maurice Berkeley, descended from the fifth Lord Berkeley. This nobleman, according to the accounts of this momentous battle, was one of the adherents of King Edward, and signalized himself by his brave achievements. The royal monarch on the following day, was declared the victor on the battle field. The undaunted Margaret and her unfortunate husband, Henry VI., were soon inmates of the Tower. The heir apparent to the crown, her youthful son the Prince of Wales, was murdered—the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. openly assisting in the act. But such are the revolutions which Providence brings about. Henry, Earl of Richmond, who was on the Queen's side, fled to the continent, and in fourteen years afterwards, slew this same Richard III. at Bosworth Field, in the identical "suit of polished steel armour," in which he was victorious at Tewkesbury—ascended the throne by the title of Henry VII., married a Yorkist, thus uniting the "white and the red roses," and for ever put an end to the strife of the rival families. From this noble ancestry, the royal family have sprung, and our present most gracious Majesty is a lineal descendant.

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## CHAP. IX.

### Eminent Local Families.

**T**HE History of Cheltenham is honourably and inseparably linked with incidents in the lives of families, eminent either for their antiquity, moral worth, philanthropy, or exalted position in the scale of society. By birth, manorial possession, residence,

and the holding of parliamentary, judicial, ministerial, and other local offices, some of the most eminent names in English History, as well as in the annals of Literature, Science, and Religion, have become locally connected. In order to illustrate and more fully develop the past and present account of the Queen of Watering Places, we here place on record biographical and historical descriptions of some of the more ancient as well as the more recent of eminent local families.

### THE DE CHELTENHAM FAMILY.

Cheltenham has always maintained a high character for being an educational town. From the time when the light of Christian truth was first kindled in our Saxon Priory, twelve centuries since, down to the present day, institutions have existed whose pupils, by their high mental attainments, have reflected honour to themselves and to the place of their instruction. Prior to the days of the Reformation our town was an important monastic station, and the great mental influence which its local institutions then exercised, is strikingly apparent in the many learned persons that were natives of the place, whose names we here transcribe, with details of their lives and pursuits.

The origin of the various christian and surnames by which individuals are designated, has long occupied the attention of antiquarians, and the result of their inquiries has been the revelation of many curious incidents connected with topography. Long prior to the invasion of William the Conqueror, and throughout the succeeding reigns, down to the settlement of the York and Lancastrian rivalry, it was the custom of the reigning monarch, when rewarding those who had become celebrated either by their literary acquirements, piety, or military skill, to append to their previous Christian name the place where they resided or were born; not unfrequently some important pecuniary advantage connected with the town attended the bequest, and became an hereditary appendage to the family. It is thus that we find so many of the old and valuable historians who lived during this momentous period, named from places that are now so insignificant as not to be known beyond their own immediate vicinity. In many of the accounts of these marks of honour, it is said that the parties are named after a town or

city, in consequence of the very great renown in which it was then held. For this reason, modern historians almost universally consider that the authenticated instance of a local title, is a sure proof of the former importance of the locality from whence the name is derived. When we consider the very early era in which a monastic institution was established at Cheltenham, and the high repute in which it must have been held during the period referred to, we should expect to find that it has given name, like the other places of consequence in the county, to men of eminence. That such is the case will be apparent from the evidence now adduced, and the fact not only adds a new feature to our local history, but it also confirms the idea before broached, respecting the ancient importance of the town. For full three hundred years a family named De Cheltenham had existence, and various of their members stand distinguished as scholars, divines, and as holders of local offices. The word "De" prefixed to the title or surname Cheltenham, is of Norman origin; it corresponds with the modern French *de* (of). It was first used in England by the Conqueror, who introduced Norman-French among the aborigines, and in process of time many foreign phrases became incorporated with the Saxon language.

William De Cheltenham was probably the first person who assumed the name of the town, for we have not been able to trace any mention of the title prior to his time. He flourished during the palmy days of Henry III., and took an active part in obtaining and drawing up local charters, about the middle of the thirteenth century. That he was an individual of influence and high legal abilities, is evident from the fact that the civic parchment rolls of Gloucester record that he was successively elected chief officer of that city in the years 1248, 1255, and 1270. According to Prynn, he bequeathed the annual rent of a house in Smith-street, Gloucester, for the purpose of founding the chantry which once existed within the walls of St. Mary-de-Crypt Church.

William de Cheltenham, a son of the last-named personage, was steward to Thomas Lord Berkeley; he was also a justice of the peace, and filled various other honourable and responsible offices. Several houses in Southgate-street, Gloucester, were awarded to him jointly with Lord Berkeley, by Lanthony

Priory, for the purpose of founding the monastery of Grey Friars on their site, which was carried into effect, and the building existed until the period of the Reformation. In 1341, "Only Thomas Lord Berkeley, Thomas Berkeley, of Cubberley, William Tracy, and William de Cheltenham, were in the commission of the peace for the county of Gloucester, which William de Cheltenham, with Lord Berkeley, sat and executed many commissions alone, respecting the peace in this and other years;" and on the 10th of March in the same year, Lord Berkeley "received the King's commission with William de Cheltenham, to see carefully to the preservation of the sea-coasts of the county." He was also possessed of property in the Pucklechurch Hundred, in this county. "It was found not to the King's injury if he granted license to Ralph, Bishop of Bath and Wells, to give 20 acres here, to William de Cheltenham, in exchange for 20 acres here, granted to the Bishop and his successors. The land of the above William de Cheltenham being held of the Bishop by two shillings per annum for all services; there remaining to the above William, in Pucklechurch, a mess, and caruc, held by the above Bishop at three shillings per annum for all services." "William de Cheltenham, one of Lord Berkeley's stewards, held part of £40 land and rent here." "William de Cheltenham held in Abboteston, 2 mess, 4 caruc and 20 marks rent." Woodmancote, in the Berkeley Hundred, having become alienated from the Berkeley family, it was repurchased by Thomas Lord Berkeley, in the name of William de Cheltenham and another of his stewards. A jury of landowners, appointed by Richard II., to determine upon the rightful ownership of Hawksbury parish, in this county, decided "That the abbey of Pershore obtained certain lands and tenements called Wodecroft and Kildesley, within the demesne of Hawkesbury, from William de Cheltenham, without the King's license."

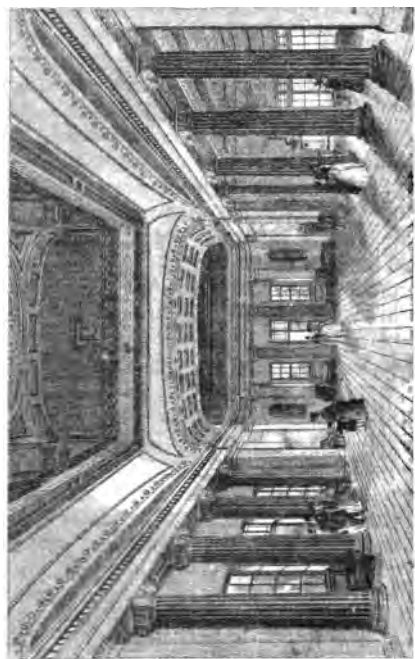
Richard de Cheltenham.—Great classical abilities, and an exalted piety, were among the chief characteristics of the next individual who is recorded as having adopted the family title. He is the first traceable person to whom the title of "Abbot of Cheltenham" is applied, which occurs in Prinn's account of Cirencester Abbey. He lived during the reigns of Henry V. and Edward IV., and was doubtless one of the Principals of



the monastic establishment which existed from so early a period in the town. His successor to the title was one of the most shining literary ornaments of the fifteenth century. He filled the responsible office of Abbot in the place of his birth with such ability and zeal that he was promoted to be the Principal of Tewkesbury Abbey. This marked elevation to the charge of one of the most extensive and richly endowed local religious institutions then existing, clearly testifies the high opinion of his moral worth and intellectual attainments which was entertained by those with whom he lived and died.

Richard de Cheltenham was one of the most celebrated divines of the reigns of Richard III. and Henry VII. He was unquestionably regarded as the principal official of the monastic institutions of this county. Leland says "Stanway was almost re-edified and augmentid by Abbate de Cheltenham, tempore Henrici VII." For many years previous to his death he was Abbot of the rich and extensive Abbey of Tewkesbury, in which Abbey he died in 1509, and was there buried. His tomb is situated in the south aisle of what is now termed the Tewkesbury Abbey, or Parish Church; a visit to it will convey to the reader an idea of the exalted position which our ancient townsman held in the monastic era. It is a long tomb of altar shape, displaying all around it the genuine Gothic order of architecture of Henry the Seventh's reign; on the body of the tomb, very richly carved, are various emblems of the dignity of the deceased, besides crosiers, quatrefoils and shields on which the letters R. C. (Richard of Cheltenham) are conspicuously engraved. In a recess over the tomb, formed by a curious arch, is some tracery of an unique character. The tomb was formerly in a much more perfect state than at present, for Willis relates that he saw the effigy of the Abbot reclining upon it in full proportion, not a vestige of which now remains. This memorial of native worth was restored by order of the authorities of Tewkesbury Church in 1827, an act highly creditable to them, and one which will tend to perpetuate for centuries to come the memory of the distinguished deceased. Richard de Cheltenham was elected Abbot of Tewkesbury Abbey, on August 3rd, 1481, and confirmed in great pomp in the September following. He assisted in his pontificals at the funeral of the renowned Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry VII., who was interred at Worcester in 1502.





PITTVILLE PUMP ROOM, CHELTENHAM.

Robert de Cheltenham, B.D., was educated for a monastic life, and acquired the degree of a bachelor of divinity. He was for many years an inmate of Tewkesbury Abbey, and was employed to transcribe the history of the period in connection with the accounts of the institution to which he belonged. In modern language he may be called a secretary,—“who was the registrar and chancellor of the Abbey”—a trust of some importance when the extent and income of the building is taken into consideration. At the time the Abbey passed into the hands of the Protestants our townsman was an inmate. As a mark of esteem of his past most exemplary career, the commissioners who seized the edifice on behalf of Henry VIII., awarded to him an annual pension of £10.

Richard de Cheltenham stands distinguished as the third Prior of Tewkesbury Abbey; he continued to hold office until the monastic dissolution, and had presented to him an annual pension of £6 13s. 4d. He was the last native of Cheltenham connected with this Abbey prior to its final destruction. The office of Prior was next in importance to that of Abbot.

John de Cheltenham was coeval with his two last named relatives, and, like them, was connected with the once extensive and richly endowed Tewkesbury Abbey. His occupation was that of chief sexton, and, at the confiscation of the Abbey, he had a pension bestowed upon him of the same amount as was given to his last named contemporary.

With John de Cheltenham our brief history of ancient local titles must close, for we cannot find any further mention of the name after the reign of Henry VIII. In the copies of the Parliamentary rolls of Philip and Mary, quoted by Willis, and in the original book of pensions still preserved in the Augmentation Office, London, and belonging to “Tewksburie late Monasterie,” are recorded the names, ranks, and pensions, of the three individuals last noticed.

The period of time we have been traversing extends from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century, and includes the reigns of Henry III., the three Edwards, Richard II., the Henrys who succeeded him, down to the early days of Henry VIII. That during this long and momentous epoch, there were many more members of the De Cheltenham family than are now ascertainable, is a highly probable conjecture. Five, out of the six individuals

mentioned, were confessedly no ordinary men for the mediæval ages, and certainly reflect honour upon that town, the name of which they bore.

### EARL OF SALISBURY.

William Long Espee, Earl of Salisbury, who was Lord of the Manor of Cheltenham, in the thirteenth century, was a person of high celebrity in his day. He stands alike distinguished for his abilities as a lawyer, warrior, statesman, and for "the spirit of exalted piety which he manifested." As a mark of royal favour and esteem, upon the occasion of his marriage he was created Earl of Salisbury by Henry III., who also gave to him the Castle of Salisbury, where he died. The Earl of Salisbury was for nine years connected with the place, and he appears to have watched over the interests of his property, for during that time there is no mention made of any payment of taxes by the inhabitants, nor until after the manor again reverted to the crown, when it paid "two shillings aid money." The Earl of Salisbury took an active part in the public affairs of his day. He warmly espoused the claim of the infant Prince Henry to the throne upon the death of King John. He aided the partisans of the Prince in fanning the flame of public opinion in his favour. He assisted at the coronation, which was held at Gloucester, of "the Infant King," who was henceforth called Henry III. When crowned he was but ten years of age. Besides the Earl of Salisbury, there were present the Pope's Legate, the Archbishop of Dublin, and several Bishops. This event occurred on October 28, 1216. His acquaintance with the locality was probably then first formed, for in three years afterwards the King, as a reward for his adherence, gave to him the Manor of Cheltenham. The gift would appear to have been an absolute one, for the Earl, at his decease, left the property by Will to his son William Espee. This person, after having held possession for three years, offended the King in consequence of his going out to fight against the Saracens without leave of absence. His departure from the kingdom upon this expedition was his ruin, for the king seized all his property, including the Cheltenham Manor; and once again it became possessed by the crown. The birth and parentage of the Earl of Salisbury is

associated with one of the most romantic incidents of the times. He was the natural son of Henry II., by the celebrated Fair Rosamond, herself allied by birth to the locality.

The grandson of Richard Duke of Normandy, Lord Clifford, came over to this country with the victorious William the Conqueror, and was presented with the delightful village of Frampton-on-Severn, in this county, by that monarch. From that period to the present, the Clifford's have had an interest in the Frampton manor, and have mostly resided within the manorial precincts. Lord Walter Clifford, who lived in the reign of Henry II., was the father of Fair Rosamond. After she had arrived at a suitable age, her parents removed her from her native village to the house of a lady residing at Woodstock, in Oxfordshire, in order to perfect her education. She manifested at an early period, an intelligent mind, combined with much vivacity and wit. All authorities agree in recording her to have been one of the greatest beauties of her day, and so truly fair, that the blood might be seen to flow through her veins. Fair Rose was a name given on account of her personal charms, and Fair Rose-a-mond was an addition made by Henry II.; her real name, and the one by which she is distinguished on the family pedigree, is simply Jane Clifford. By the king she had two sons, named William Long Espee and Geoffery; the former, who owned the Cheltenham Manor, was made Lord High Chancellor, and the latter, Bishop of Lincoln. They were both persons of very high note and authority in their day. Their royal father was much attached to them, and in consequence of his own queen and children rebelling against him, they became his confidential advisers, were present during the time of his decease, and received into their hands all the official seals. After the lapse of a few years, Rosamond, stung with remorse, retired from the world and all its vanities, to the nunnery of Godstow, where she died in 1177.

The nunnery, which had afforded a place of refuge to this victim of royal passion, was afterwards endowed by Rosamond's father and brother, who, jointly, for ever awarded to it, the rental of a meadow called *Lichten*, and also a mill, both situate at Frampton-on-Severn, the village where she was born, in 1140, now upwards of 700 years since. "Rosamond was the daughter of Walter Lord Clifford, which lady, for her incomparable beauty,

was reputed, with allusion to her name, *Rosa-mundi*, or the rose of the world" (*Speed*).

The Earl of Salisbury was connected by marriage with a local family of high celebrity—the De Spencers, whose representatives are interred in the Abbey Church at Tewkesbury. The Earl's relationship to the celebrated beauty of the age has tended to perpetuate his memory. The incidents in the life of his parent have proved a most fertile field for the historian and novelist, and it is a singular coincidence that the so long popular musical composition of "*Fair Rosamond*," should have been written by an after resident in the Manor—John Barnett.

The Earl of Salisbury was no ordinary man. He was evidently made for the times in which he lived—times of turbulence and change—which required moral courage and firmness from adherents to the side of Royalty. These qualities *Espee* possessed in an eminent degree. Like the Roman Senator, who went from labouring at the plough to the imperial throne, and directed and ruled a nation, the Earl of Salisbury in the hour of need could cast aside the attire of the Lord High Chancellor, buckle to his girt the sword of the warrior, and fight in defence of his king and country. "The word *William Long Espee*, is of French origin, and signifies the long sword—a name applied on account of unusual length of the sword commonly worn by this brave personage" (*Rapin*).

We have thus briefly glanced at this remarkable man's career, and it seems to have been an honourable one. The Lord of our Manor was sent into a foreign land "upon business of State," which affected his health, and he paid the debt of nature. His latter end was truly characteristic of the religious man, as this testimony of the old English historian will illustrate :

"*Speed* thus records his decease :—' *William Long Espee*, survived not long his good services, who returning upon business of state into England, soon ended his days at the Castle of Salisbury, with so great humility and piety, that at point of death he would not receive the Holy Eucharist in his bed, but upon his bare knees on the ground, which he moistened with abundance of penitential tears. Upon which great Earl this Epitaph was made—

Royal-born William, flower of Earls lies here,  
A sheath thus short, doth Long Sword bear.'"

## THE BERKELEY FAMILY.

By parliamentary representation, the possession of property, and the holding of judicial and military offices, and by residence, the Berkeley family have been connected with Cheltenham for many centuries—first, by the purchase of the Manorial lease in 1466, by Sir Maurice Berkeley, and more recently by the election of the Hon. C. F. Berkeley, his cousin, Grenville C. Lennox Berkeley, Esq., and Col. Berkeley, as Members of Parliament for the borough, and by their elevation to the local Bench of Magistrates. A consecutive account of all the incidents connected with the county would alone pourtray the intimate connection which has so long locally existed—the memoir of “the noble House of Berkeley” being in fact inseparable from the history of Gloucestershire. In the early monastic ages, and also in more recent periods, branches of the family stand distinguished for their learning and piety. The name of Bishop Berkeley is familiar to all; and, in his day and generation, he was one of the most eminent of theologians and metaphysicians. For centuries, in ancient times, the principal male representative was the sole administrator of justice for the entire county, holding at the same time a number of other responsible offices. By intermarriages and Royal favours, they have become connected with persons of the highest rank and celebrity. A screen in Berkeley Chapel contains their pedigree and arms, and on it may be traced the alliance of the Berkeleys, in past times, with the following distinguished families—Fitzhardinge, Howard, Clifford, Hemsdon, Derby, Campden, Musgrave, Stanhope, Mortimer, Lennox, Warwick, Mowbray, Cobham, Bruce, Norfolk, Warren, Shrewsbury, Bedford, Ormond, Butler, Dacre, and Segrave.

The long pending suit which occupied the attention of the House of Lords during several sessions down to 1861, respecting the claim to the title set up by Sir Maurice Berkeley, brought the family history prominently before the public. The evidence then adduced by the claimant, Sir Maurice, the father of the present parliamentary representative of Cheltenham, at once showed the ancient custom of “Barons by Tenure,” and of the title passing with the owner of the Estate. The historical matter brought forward upon that occasion, strikingly illustrated both the antiquity and importance of the family from the earliest dawn of English history.



The Berkeleys are unquestionably of Royal origin. Hardinge, the son of Sueno, King of Denmark, came over to this country with William the Conqueror, and having married Eva, the Conqueror's niece, and assumed the name of Fitzhardinge, settled at Bristol, where he died in 1115. He was a canon, and the founder of St. Augustin's Abbey, now forming part of the Cathedral, where he lies buried. In 1168, he entertained with great hospitality at his house, in Baldwin-street, Bristol, the King of Leinster and a suite of sixty persons, who were passing through that place with the captive wife of the rival prince of Breffini. Maurice, the son of this Fitzhardinge, married the daughter of Roger de Berkeley, and thus commenced "the noble house of Berkeley." Roger de Berkeley was allied to Edward the Confessor, and to the Conqueror. His original name was Roger. He resided at Dursley; but after the Conquest, his last named relative gave to him the Berkeley Manor, when he appended the name of that place to his own. He was one of the monks of the Priory of Leonard Stanley, which he richly endowed. The two houses which had been thus united were, for some time previous, in a state of political rivalry: by the marriage a covenant of peace was effected. The warmest partizans on both sides were present at the nuptial celebration, and among the number were King Stephen, and Henry, Duke of Normandy. Eva, the wife of Fitzhardinge, founded a nunnery at Bristol after her husband's decease, and she remained an inmate until the period of her death. Her son Maurice was characterized for his benevolence: he founded two hospitals in the neighbourhood of Berkeley. He had two sons, who accompanied the captive William the First, of Scotland, on his return from England to his native country, and thus was commenced the Berkeleys of Scotland, which shortly afterwards led to the establishment of another branch in Ireland. Robert, the eldest son of Maurice, who remained at home, and was brought up in the court of Henry the First, appears to have inherited the religious zeal of his father. At his death, he bequeathed the greater part of his property towards endowing the Churches and Priors at Bristol, Berkeley, Hereford, and many other places. So benevolent were the early members of this family, that Smythe, in his "Lives of the Berkeleys," asserts, and the assertion is borne out by Fuller, that they have

been the greatest benefactors to the Church of the whole nobility of England—no less than eighty knights' fees being held of them by religious houses ; nor is there scarcely a church in this county—and there are many in others—where the arms in the windows do not denote a benefaction. The family have, on this account, an Abbot's mitre for a crest. Robert, although twice married, died without male issue, and the line was continued by his second brother, Thomas, who married Joan, daughter of the Lord of Campden, and by her had a numerous issue ; one of his sons, William, became a Knight Templar. His eldest son, Maurice, who was created a Lord, and succeeded his father in 1243, was one of the greatest warriors of the day. He accompanied the Prince of Wales in his Welsh expedition, and afterwards sumptuously entertained Henry III. at Berkeley Castle, he having previously attended that monarch in his wars at Gascony. Lord Maurice twice married branches of royal blood. His first wife was Isabel, daughter of the Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, and brother to Henry III. ; his second wife was the daughter of Credina, a baron of Lincolnshire, and a grandchild of Louis, King of France. The next successor was his son Thomas, who was created a Lord in 1281. He was also a great warrior, having fought in twenty-eight engagements, and among the number at the celebrated battle of Bannockburn, where he was taken prisoner, and ransomed only for a very large sum. Fuller says—"His piety was as conspicuous by religious bequests, as his courage had been by repeated acts of bravery." He died in 1321, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Maurice, who was called to Parliament by Edward the First, in 1309, under the title of Lord Berkeley. He continued his seat in Parliament until his father's death, when he vacated it, and took possession of the family estates. It was customary in that rude and warlike era, (the fourteenth century), to contract marriages between members belonging to families of note, from their infancy. Maurice was married at the age of eight years, to Eva, daughter of Lord Zouch, and at the age of fourteen was the father of Thomas, his son and heir. Maurice was a great favourite both with Edward I. and II., and by them he was successively appointed to the offices of Governor of Gloucester, Governor of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Justice of Wales, and High Steward of the Duchy of Aquitain. But

having, in connection with others, opposed the claims of the Hugh Despensers, he lost the royal favour, and having refused to give up his castle and property, when specially summoned, he was taken prisoner, and died in captivity at Wallingford Castle. His son Thomas, who sided with his father, was also taken prisoner, and conveyed to the Tower, from which he contrived to escape, but was shortly afterwards recaptured, and successively imprisoned at Sussex and Berkhamstead. A change of circumstances fortunately took place in 1326, and he was released, and the family property restored to him. Thomas distinguished himself at the siege of Calais, and at the battles of Cressy and Poitiers. He was succeeded by his son Maurice, who having attended his father on a warlike errand to Scotland, was created a knight in his seventh year, and in his eighth year was married to a daughter of Hugh Despenser. He died in 1367, and was followed by his son Thomas, who married a daughter of Lord Lisle, and among the issue may be mentioned the wife of the celebrated Earl of Warwick. He took part in all the principal military actions of his day, and was also eminent for his love of literature; by his patronage and influence, a new translation of the Holy Scriptures was published. At the death of Thomas, the family line was continued by his nephew James, who was thrice married, and by those marriages allied to the families of Norfolk, Shrewsbury, and Stafford. He died in 1463, and was succeeded by his son William, who, for his valour at the battle of Calais, was knighted by Edward IV., appointed Earl Marshal of England, and by Henry VII. was created Earl Berkeley. Although he was three times allied by marriage to families of distinction, yet none of his children survived him, and his titles and estates devolved to his brother Maurice, who dying in 1506, was succeeded by his son of the same name, who successively filled the offices of High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, and Lieutenant of Calais, at which latter place he died in 1523, without male issue. The line was continued by his brother Thomas, who intermarried with the families of Huntingdon and Savage, and had issue, Elizabeth, afterwards wife to the Earl of Ormond, and Henry, his son and heir, who married Lady Catherine Howard. These persons were both court favourites, and Queens Elizabeth and Mary stood godmothers to two of their children. At the death of Henry, the line was continued by his grandson

George, a man of great literary acquirements, and who spent his time in travelling abroad to make discoveries. By a daughter of Sir M. Stanhope, he had several sons, the elder of whom was unfortunately drowned on his way to France. He died in 1658, and was followed by his son George, who having taken active measures to restore Charles II. to the throne, was by that monarch created both Earl of Berkeley and Viscount Dursley, in 1679. He was also a patron of learning, and bequeathed to Sion College a library collected by the great lawyer, Sir Robert Coke. He was a warm friend of William III., and assisted him in dethroning James II. He was succeeded by his son Charles, who married a daughter of Viscount Campden. He was elected member of Gloucester, and in 1689, he was advanced to the House of Lords. His next successor was his son James, who spent the greater portion of his life upon the seas. He took a prominent part in several of the celebrated naval victories achieved during the reign of Queen Anne. He was second in command during the battles engaged in by Sir George Rooke and Sir Cloudesley Shovel. He early manifested an inclination for naval life, and was in 1701 appointed a Captain of the "Sorlings." Soon after the accession of Queen Anne, he was promoted to the "Lichfield," 50 guns; and being detached from the main fleet under Sir G. Rooke, to cruise in soundings, he fell in with and captured, after a severe action, a French ship of war with 36 guns, and a large vessel carrying 20 guns, homeward bound for Martinique, and valued at £40,000. He brought both vessels into Spithead. In 1704 he was appointed to the command of the "Boyne," 80 guns, and in the battle of Malaga, was stationed in the line second to Sir J. Leake. In 1706, he commanded the "St. George," in the Mediterranean; and riding at anchor before one of the Isles of Hieres, on which there were three forts, surprised the strongest and summoned the two others, which surrendered at discretion. In 1707, and when only twenty seven years of age, he was created Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Vice-Admiral of the White. He married Lady Lennox, daughter of the Duke of Richmond, and died in 1736, leaving Augustus, his only son and successor, who was made Lord-Lieutenant of the county, and a Knight of the Thistle. He died in 1775. His son Frederick Augustus, Earl of Berkeley, held all the offices, both

local and national, which his father inherited; and died in 1810. In the following year his eldest son, William Fitzhardinge Berkeley laid claim to the title and estates, which led to the celebrated trial in the House of Lords. The decision was given in 1811, and by the house refusing to recognise the alleged marriage between the Earl and his Countess in 1785, Thomas Morton Fitzhardinge Berkeley became the acknowledged Earl of Berkeley. The Countess of Berkeley, after the trial, retired into private life, and died on October 30, 1844. Probate of her will was granted in May 19, 1845, to the Right Hon. William Fitzhardinge Berkeley, Baron Segrave, Earl Fitzhardinge, the son, and the Right Hon. Lady Mary Henrietta Fitzhardinge Berkeley, the daughter, the executors.

The will devised her real estates to her eldest son, and bequeathed to him her diamonds, jewels, plate, and the medals presented to her husband; and other jewels, trinkets, and ornaments to be divided among her three daughters, to whom she also bequeathed many specific and pecuniary legacies, except to her daughter, Lady Caroline, who had requested that no money might be left to her by the will.

The will was dated the 15th of November, 1843, and the codicils, 1844, and are respectively signed "Mary Berkeley." Accompanying the will was a most interesting and lengthy document, entirely in her ladyship's handwriting, occupying twelve sheets, being a copy of a letter addressed to his Majesty King George IV., as to her marriage, and the reception at Court of her eldest son by his Majesty, who acknowledged him as Earl Berkeley. The letter is dated March 11, 1822, at Cranford, and is signed "Mary Berkeley,"

By this memorable trial a junior member of the ancient family was legally advanced to the Earldom—an honour which he declined. The facts are thus recorded in Debrett's Peerage,—“No writ has been issued to an Earl of Berkeley since the death in 1810, of Frederic Augustus, the fifth Earl; the House of Peers having decided July 1, 1811, that William Fitzhardinge Berkeley, Esq., who then claimed the title, as eldest son and heir of the last Earl, had not made good his claim; and Thomas Moreton Fitzhardinge Berkeley, on whom, by virtue of the above decision, the title devolved, declined, from a firm conviction of his brother's legitimate birth, to assume it.” Thus, it appears

that the eldest son virtually succeeded to the Berkeley Estates. He was soon afterwards popularly known as Colonel Berkeley. On September 10, 1831, he was created a Baron, and became Lord Segrave, and more recently he was honoured with the title of Earl Fitzhardinge. On December 8, 1835, he was elevated to the highest local judicial office—having by His late Majesty William IV., received the appointment of Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. In this capacity, his Lordship did much to advance the social and commercial interests of the county. As the chief representative of the reigning monarch, his zeal and eloquence was called into exercise upon occasions of public emergency. In 1816, when the Duke of Wellington first visited Cheltenham, he was, with others, at a public meeting, deputed to deliver an address to the noble warrior. The oratorical powers of the then Col. Berkeley, were ably exercised upon the occasion, and were eulogised by the "Hero of an hundred fights." In 1850, when a national effort was being made to secure the Great Exhibition of 1851, his Lordship rendered valuable assistance. He presided at a public meeting at the Assembly Rooms, Cheltenham, called in aid of that memorable object; and by a munificent donation placed the chief town of the county in a prominent position on the subscription list. Earl Fitzhardinge was born in 1786, and his birthday was annually celebrated in the neighbourhood of his "ancient demesne," with general rejoicing.

Earl Fitzhardinge was associated with Cheltenham for half-a-century, until his decease. To the local charities and amusements he was a constant benefactor. The visitors and residents of a watering-place require out-door pursuits, in order to promote that health and vigour which they seek after. The sports of the field are well calculated to gain this great object, and the regular establishment of a pack of hounds has tended to acquire for the town a celebrity of which it may indeed be proud. This has been done by Earl Fitzhardinge, in a manner and for a time without a parallel in the sporting history of any locality. The noble Earl, at his sole expense, and without once making a public appeal, for forty years regularly supplied a noble pack of fox-hounds, and maintained a vast hunting establishment. The inhabitants, in order to mark their sense of obligation, on several occasions escorted his Lordship into the town in procession, and

presented him with a congratulatory address. This has generally been done upon the first day of the hunting season, while the bells of St. Mary's have joined in with their merry peals. But, it was long felt that an act so disinterested as that of affording a locality an opportunity of hunting for forty years, deserved some substantial mark of esteem. Consequently, a committee, comprising the heads of some of the most noble families of the town and county, was chosen to collect subscriptions, for the purpose of purchasing a testimonial. On April 23rd, 1852, a public dinner, attended by most of the leading sporting gentlemen of the county, was held at the Plough Hotel, in order to afford an opportunity of presenting to the noble Earl a testimonial of a most costly description, of solid silver. As a work of modern art, it was pronounced by both foreign and English artists to be without a rival in any country. The design was happily chosen, being purely historical, and represented, among other matters, achievements of Fitzhardinge, the Norman, one of the earliest ancestors of the family (who has been noticed at the commencement of this chapter)—his Lordship being the twenty-sixth in descent from the royal Dane.

The *Cheltenham Examiner* of January 7th, 1857, in noticing the completion of his 70th birthday, and, after reviewing the rapid increase of the town since the Earl's hunting stud had been located, observes :—

“ In estimating the mere pecuniary advantage conferred on Cheltenham by the Earl and his family for nearly fifty years, if we put their annual expenditure at £10,000, the aggregate will amount to half a million of money. Such was the prosperity of the place in 1823, that it is on record, in the October of that year, there were building contracts under hand amounting to £450,000, and from 400 to 500 workmen in the building trades were engaged in the town. From the arrival lists during the season, we gather the names of the following persons of title :—4 Dukes, 3 Duchesses, 6 Marquises, 5 Marchionesses, 4 Bishops, 10 Earls, 8 Countesses, 53 Lords, 70 Ladies, besides a host of Honourables, Baronets, foreigners of title, and other persons of distinction.”

With the exception of a few months pending a decision, the Berkeley family have represented Cheltenham in Parliament since 1832. The Hon. C. F. Berkeley had a seat in the House of Commons for sixteen years, and his cousin, Grenville C. L. Berkeley, Esq., for the following four years, after which Mr.

Craven Berkeley was reinstated ; and at his decease, his nephew, Col. Berkeley, was elected. The Hon. C. F. Berkeley was, on Nov. 28th, 1848, honoured with a public testimonial of respect. This consisted of a massive service of plate, subscribed exclusively for by the wives of the electors of the borough. The presentation took place at the Assembly Rooms, and Lady Mary Berkeley and Miss Berkeley—the sister and daughter of the Hon. Member—were present on the occasion. The Hon. C. F. Berkeley was called into notice during the “No-popery” agitation, by a domestic event. His step-daughter, a young ward in Chancery, then Miss Talbot, now Lady Howard, having been educated in the Catholic faith, Mr. Berkeley was anxious that she should have an opportunity of forming her religious opinions unbiassed. She was then an inmate of a nunnery at Taunton ; and the disclosure made in the House of Commons and the Court of Chancery, concerning the circumstances in which she was placed, united with her noble family connexions and wealthy prospects, produced one of the most extraordinary demonstrations of religious feeling that modern times have witnessed. Mr. Berkeley received the public congratulations of all classes of Protestants, for the zeal and energy he manifested upon this unprecedented occasion.

The Hon. C. F. Berkeley, besides his long Parliamentary connection, was also one of the Cheltenham magistrates. He first married the Hon. Mrs. Talbot, a lady allied to the Shrewsbury family. His second marriage was celebrated on August 27th, 1845, at Cranbury Park, near Winchester, the seat of Thomas Chamberlayne, Esq., by the Very Rev. the Dean of Winchester, to Charlotte, fourth daughter of the late General Onslow, of Staughton House, Huntingdonshire, and widow of the late George Newton, Esq., of Croxton Park, Cambridgeshire, and a lineal descendant from the justly celebrated Onslow, the Speaker of the House of Commons, who was a frequent visitor to the town.

Colonel W. F. Fitzhardinge Berkeley, the Member of Parliament for the borough, is the eldest son of Sir Maurice Berkeley, of Berkeley Castle, and the heir apparent to the title and estate. He is the Colonel of the South Gloucestershire Militia, and of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, and fills various other offices connected with the locality. He was first returned to Parlia-



ment by the Electors of Cheltenham in 1856, a second time elected in 1857, and a third time in 1859.

We thus see how long and intimately this ancient family have been locally connected. Several of their more modern members are interred in our Parish Church, and tablets exist to their memory. At the period the mineral waters were first becoming known, Norborne Berkeley, Esq., M.P., took a warm interest in endeavouring to establish the town. A pulpit in the Parish Church was erected at his expense, and the velvet cushion and trimmings with which he adorned it, were in use at the time King George the Third and family were attendant worshippers. At his own expense he erected a draw-bridge, which united the Old Well Walk with the Churchyard through, Church Mead, the site of the present Royal Crescent.

#### THE PRINN FAMILY.

For nearly a century and a half the Prinn family have been locally connected. By the filling of judicial and parochial offices, and the possession of copyhold property interwoven legally and historically with the manor of Cheltenham, they have become linked with the past and present history of the town. Sir William Russell, Bart., M.P., son of Lady Prinn, is the present collateral descendant of this eminent family. This gentleman, like his predecessors, has ever taken a warm interest in all matters likely to advance the interests of the town. He is one of the local magistrates, and was also elected by a large majority to fill the office of commissioner under the Town Improvement Act. At public meetings convened for objects of a beneficial character to the inhabitants, Sir William Russell is often found presiding,—thereby giving his personal testimony to the value of the object sought to be obtained. Nor is he alone attentive to home. In the Senate House and on the Battle Field he stands alike distinguished. With true patriotic feeling he has fought in defence of his country, alike on the sultry plains of India and in the cold regions of ever-frozen Russia. Sir William is also Lord of the Manor of Charlton, which his ancestors so long held, besides being a considerable copyholder of this manor. In 1853, he acted as the chairman to a public meeting, convened by the Cheltenham copyholders, in order to

obtain the abolition of various fees which had been attempted to be charged in opposition to a practice existing from time immemorial. On that occasion, the returning officer of the borough, W. P. Bell, Esq., in moving a vote of thanks to Sir William, remarked that "He believed Sir William Russell was one of the largest, if not *the* largest copyholder of this Manor, and he was also a Lord of a Manor himself."

In Colonel Hart's "Army List for 1861," it is said that "Sir William Russell served in the Indian Campaign from February, 1858, to March, 1859, and was present at the repulse of the enemy's attack on the Allumbagh, siege and capture of Lucknow, (brevet of Lieut.-Col.) commanded the 7th Hussars at the affairs of Baree and Sirsee, action of Newabgunge, occupation of Fyzabad, passage of the Goomtee at Sultampore, through the Byswarra Campaign, including the affairs of Kandoo Nuddee, Paleeghat, Hyderghur, and pursuit of Benhi Madho's force to the Goomtee; also the Trans Gora Campaign, including the affair near Churda and pursuit, taking the fort of Meejeedia, attack on Bankee, with pursuit to the Raptee, advance into Nepaul, and affair of Sitkaghat. Several times mentioned in despatches, C.B., Medal and Clasp."

EXTRACT FROM "HAND BOOK OF THE COURT, THE PEERAGE,  
AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, 1861":

"Sir Wm. Russell, Bart., C.B., M.P. for Norwich, a Magistrate for Gloucestershire, Lieut.-Colonel 7th Hussars. Entered the Army 1841. Served on the Staff in the Crimes; commanded the 7th Hussars throughout the Indian Campaign, 1857-59. Was Aide-de-Camp and Master of the Horse to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, 1847-52. A Liberal. In favour of the ballot, extension of the franchise, and abolition of church rates. Sat for Dover 1857-1859, when he was an unsuccessful candidate. First elected for Norwich 1860.

Born 1822; (only son of Sir William Russell, M.D., First Baronet), by his second wife Jane Eliza, eldest daughter of Major-General J. Doddington Sherwood, Charlton Park, Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire, third Albany; Army and Navy."

William Prinn, who died in 1771, was a noted legal gentleman, and acted as a magistrate for this town. His name appears to the declaration at the end of the Poor Rate Books for Cheltenham, from 1741 to 1763.

Dr. Bell was a resident in the town, and a zealous supporter to the Lancaster system of education. A school on the plan

was started in the old Town Hall, on June 5th, 1816. The Prinn family were among some of its best supporters; and so successful were the efforts made, that the building soon proved too small to accommodate the number of children sent for instruction. This led to the erection of the present National School Room in the Bath Road, the foundation stone of which was laid by William Prinn, Esq., Aug. 23rd, 1816. In 1739, and at intervals for several years afterwards, the Rev. J. Prinn was preacher at the Parish Church.

The first introduction of the Prinn family into this neighbourhood, arose from a visit paid to Charlton Manor House by William Prinn, of Allington, in Wilts—the illustrious individual whose writings and moral heroism have shed such a lustre upon the family name. This noble mansion was then occupied by the Grevilles;—related to the eminent judge of that name, whose families resided at Charlton, and Arle. Greville was an intimate legal friend of Prinn, and this led the latter to treat for the purchase of the same. Before this could be done, Prinn died; but the treaty was carried out by his grandson, John Prinn, Esq., who purchased of the Mitchells, took possession, and resided in the Manor House in the Park. This was a most important event indeed, for Mr. Prinn devoted the whole of his life to the laudable pursuit of collecting and copying all the registers then extant, of the former Abbeys of Winchcomb, Gloucester, Tewkesbury, and also the records connected with the town and manor of Cheltenham.

Mr. Prinn, like his noble ancestors, appears to have followed the legal profession; for in the conveyance deed, dated 1692, of property which he purchased in the High Street, he is described as “John Prinn, of the Inner Temple, London.” It may be mentioned, as a proof of the great increase in the value of property in the town, that the sum paid by Mr. Prinn in 1692, which was £160, secured to him three houses, adjoining to and including the Lamb Hotel, and building ground adjacent! The great intimacy which subsisted between these two legal families, the Grevilles and the Prinns, appears not to have ended even with life.—In death they were not divided.—Within a few yards of each other, in the chancel of the Parish Church of Cheltenham, facing the communion table, they sleep in peace. During the removal of vaults, consequent upon the Order in Council in 1860,





the last resting place of some of the early members of this family was revealed, in a vault contiguous to the Grevilles. With a true appreciation of William Prinn's great abilities, the present noble family representative had the stone repaired and properly restored. The inscription is as follows :—

“Here lyeth ye body of William Prynn, Gent, who deceased this life the 19th day of Febr., 1680, aged 61. Here also was buried ye daughter of William Prynn, Gent, she deceased ye 18th day of Febr. 1687. Also Ann who died his widow and Relic on the 20th day of Augt 1697.”

Such is the simple memorial to the members of a family who have done so much to obtain the establishment of the eternal principles of religious reformation and civil liberty !

Various members of this noble family are interred in Charlton Church. The inscriptions on their monuments supply us with dates that tend to elucidate their descent. None of these memorials are so ancient as the one we have been noticing, which enhances its value. The dates of interment at Charlton are on the male side, John Prinn, 1743, Rev. J. Prinn, 1743, W. Prinn, 1771, E. Prinn, 1744, K. Prinn, 1744; on the female side K. Prinn, 1717, S. Prinn, 1728, D. Hunt, 1772, relic of John Prinn, 1760,

John Prinn, deserves indeed, a still more suitable and public memorial. But for his industry and zeal (while steward of the manor), in collecting all local documents connected with the town and county, these pages could never have been penned. To him we are indebted for so much that is important and interesting, and his faithfulness as a recorder is fully proved and confirmed by contemporary historians. William Prinn, was steward of the manor prior to 1742, and the entries on the records are made by him with great care.

It is one distinguishing feature of this locality, that it contains estates, the property and residence of families, whose ancestors stand distinguished for the part they took in some memorable event connected with English history. One of these edifices occurs at the adjacent village of Charlton Kings; it has, from time immemorial, constituted the manor-house, and is surrounded by very extensive grounds, laid out with stately trees, ornamented with a fine sheet of water, forming one of

the most picturesque of our local estates, and highly deserving of the title (Charlton Park) by which it is designated. This ancient domain is celebrated as having been the abode of the Prinn family for the past century and a half. The manor of Charlton has been possessed by this family ever since that period, and their present collateral descendants, Lady Prinn and Sir William Russell, Bart., reside at the Park, and are as proverbial for their urbanity and benevolence as their ancient ancestors were for their historical labours and puritanical zeal. Most of the ancient resident families of our locality derive their celebrity from the valour and courage displayed by some early ancestor at a memorable battle. The fame of the Prinn family at Charlton Park has not been gained in ancient times by the achievements of the sword, but by that far more moral and useful weapon—the pen. Talent, political integrity, and a taste for collecting and publishing historical works, appear to have been hereditary in this family.

Preceding chapters have contained copious extracts from the local historian of this family, the former Steward of the Cheltenham manor. As with other families of similar antiquity, a change has taken place in the orthography of the name, the *y* being now spelt *i*, which will account for the use of the words *Prynne* and *Prinn* in this work.

William Prinn, who first called this family into notice, was a Barrister-at-law, of Lincoln's-Inn, in the days of Charles I. Mr. Prinn was a shining ornament of the legal profession; but being a man of strong moral feelings, he was disgusted at the licentious character of the age. He published a great number of works against the immoralities that were then openly practised, and especially on the sabbath day, which were countenanced by the royal family, heads of the church, and the nobility generally. Mr. Prinn left the bar, and closely applied himself to literary and political pursuits; and, although in favour of the monarchical form of government, he was a zealous and uncompromising denouncer of the tyrannical conduct of Charles I., and of the evils of the then existing established church, opposing, at the same time, the claims of Cromwell. The King, becoming more and more absolute and intolerant, laid hold of any pretext to silence or imprison those who were exposing his usurped power in Church or State. To such a state of profligacy had the times

arrived, that, immediately after the church services on the Sunday were over, drums were beaten, and the entire populace participated in the most revolting and indecent acts. This state of things aroused the indignation of Prinn. He published, in 1633, his great work against the vices of the age, entitled "*Histriomastix*." He was imprisoned directly after its publication, and took his trial in the Star Chamber, on February 7, in the same year. He was defended by four of the ablest counsellors of the day. The Attorney-General, who prosecuted, aggravated the nature of the charge by many false statements. The information set forth that the book was written against sabbath wakes, masques, &c.; "that though the author knew that the Queen and Lords of the Council were frequently present at these diversions, yet he had railed against these and several others; that he had aspersed the Queen, and commended factious persons, which things are of dangerous consequence to the Church and State." The counsel for the defendant argued that the work was not written against the persons, but the vices of the age. The Earl of Dorset, on behalf of the King, delivered himself of the following barbarous speech, which strikingly exposes the intolerant character of the times:—"Mr. Prynne," said he, "I declare you to be a Schism-maker in the Church, a Sedition-sower in the Commonwealth, a wolf in sheep's clothing. I would fine him £10,000, which is more than he is worth, yet less than he deserves. I will not set him at liberty no more than a plagued man, or a mad dog, who, although he cannot bite, may foam. He is so far from being a social soul, that he is not a rational soul. He is fit to live in dens with such beasts of prey as wolves and tigers like himself, therefore I condemn him to perpetual imprisonment; and for corporeal punishment, I would have him branded in the forehead, slit in the nose, and have his ears chopt off." The trial lasted several days, and terminated in a verdict of guilty against Prinn, with the following sentence: "That his book be burnt by the common hangman; to be put from the Bar, and to be for ever incapable of his profession; to be turned out of the Society of Lincoln's-Inn; to be degraded at Oxford; to stand in the Pillory at Westminster and Cheapside; to lose both his ears, one in each place; to pay a fine of £5,000, and to suffer perpetual imprisonment." All these cruelties were duly carried into effect, and the victim was



confined in the Tower. But the prison did not daunt the noble mind of Priam: pens, ink, and paper having been conveyed to him, he wrote a most powerful work against the spiritual power of the bishops, and their profligacy; which was published under the anonymous title of "A Voice from Ipswich." The writer was soon discovered, and the earless Prinn was tried for this second offence, at the Star Chamber, in 1637. The charge was very similar to the former one, and maintained with the same bitterness and want of toleration. He was again sentenced to a fine of £5,000, to be placed in the pillory, the remaining portion of his ears to be cut off, "S.L." to be branded on his cheeks with a red hot iron, and to be perpetually imprisoned in the remotest prisons in the kingdom. "This sentence," says Neale, "was executed June 30, by the hangman, who rather sawed than cut off the remainder of Prynn's ears; after which he was sent, under a strong guard, to Carnarvon Castle, North Wales; but that prison not being deemed remote enough, he was removed to the island of Jersey, and not allowed pen, ink, or paper, or the access of friends." At length the scale of Government turned in favour of liberty. Prinn sent a petition to the House of Commons, detailing his persecutions, which was no sooner presented, than his release was the immediate result. When on his road to London, Calamy relates that he was met "by great numbers of people on horseback, with rosemary and bay in their hats, and attended into the city in triumph, with loud acclamations for his deliverance." That curious journal of this period, called "The Perfect Diurnall," includes the prosecution of Mr. Prinn in the accounts which it gives of the proceedings of the Parliament in reference to the Civil Wars and growth of tobacco at Cheltenham. This proves the early period that the family was regarded as having a local connexion. The House rewarded this martyr by restoring him to the Bar, and ordered that £500 be paid to him out of the estates of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the other Lords, who voted and spoke against him on his trials. This was in 1640. He returned to his profession, grew immensely rich, followed his literary pursuits without interruption, and assisted in remodelling the laws at the accession of Charles II. With the wealth thus accumulated, was purchased the beautiful estate we have been describing, where his descendants have since continued to reside.

In the library of W. M. Tarrt, Esq., J.P., of Cheltenham, is preserved Prynne's "~~Short~~, legal, medicinal, safe, easy Prescription to recover our Kingdom, Church, Nation, from their present dangerous, distractible, destructive confusion, and worse than Babelian madness."—London, 1659.

"Long prior to the sixteenth century, Charlton belonged to the Grevilles; but it was purchased by John Prynne, a collateral descendant of that celebrated and persecuted benchman, William Prynne, whose collection of Records in three volumes folio, is not only one of the rarest and dearest, but at the same time one of the most valuable works connected with our history. It makes some amends for the old puritan's condemnation of the frivolities of the time, in his "Unloveliness of Lovelocks," and the other thousand and one lucubrations of his pen, and invectives against light and elegant literature in his "Histriomatrix, or Player's Scourge," for which publication, the Star Chamber, made him pay a fine of £5000—stand in the pillory—lose his ears—and be expelled the University of Oxford, and his Inn, by expunging his name from the books of Oriol College, where he was educated, and from Lincoln's Inn; to which latter, however, he bequeathed his valuable library, which, together with his portrait, are now in the New Hall of that Society" (Letters on Cheltenham).

"Charlton, which was purchased by John Prinn, Esq., collateral relation of William Prinn, the most celebrated political writer of his day" (Griffiths). "John Prinn, collaterally related to the celebrated Prinn, purchased Charlton of the Mitchells" (Rudge). "Prinn's manuscripts, of Charlton, are equally singular and valuable" (Dallaway). "The Prinn family were originally of Allington. John Prinn, Esq., extracted, or rather copied, the contents of all the Registers of the Abbies of Gloucester, Winchcomb, and Cirencester, the papers of the Corporation, Dean, and Chapter of Gloucester, and other authentic documents" (Fosbrooke).

Such is a brief sketch of one of our resident families. It will be seen that integrity of character, firm adherence to great moral principles, and an indomitable love of truth, seem to be their hereditary qualities. These good traits appear in full force in the every day actions of the present family representative.

Twice has he been returned by large and ancient constituences to the British Parliament, on account of his staunch adherence to those principles of civil and religious liberty, for which his ancestors struggled through evil and through good report to maintain. His personal career as a defender of civil and religious rights, and his noble conduct in the battle-field in defence of his native country, will be unfolded, from official despatches, in a future History of Charlton. Sir W. Russell is a baronet by virtue of that honour having been conferred upon his father for the great services which he rendered as a medical man, both in England and Russia, during the ravages of that dreadful disease—the cholera. We thus see that from the celebrated lawyer and religious reformer Prinn, down to Dr. Russell, the benevolent and philanthropic preventer of the spread of a dire epidemic, and his son Sir W. Russell, bart., the patriot, the statesman, and defender of his country—that this family have acquired their honour and renown by their intrinsic merits. On this account they deserve to be recorded on the pages of not only local but national history. The ancient family crest surmounts the massive pillars at the entrance to the mansion at Charlton Park, and it is truly characteristic of the military courage displayed by the owner—a Spread Eagle issuing from a coronet.

#### THE SHERBORNE FAMILY.

Among the many events connecting the borough with the past and present, was the purchase of the manor by the Sherborne Family. This was an important act when viewed in the relation in which it stands to the results that followed. Subsequent branches of the Sherbornes aided the carrying out of some of the greatest improvements the town can boast of.

The ancient Dutton or Sherborne family have been identified with Cheltenham for upwards of two centuries, and their history is intermingled with our parochial transactions during a most interesting and important period. To the persevering spirit and enterprise of the late Lord Sherborne the town stands indebted for several of its public edifices and improvements. Prior to his becoming Lord of the Manor there were no means of conveying coal, stone, and other heavy commodities from Gloucester,

except by the slow and expensive waggon carriage. To meet this inconvenience, his lordship, in connection with the Earl of Suffolk, who then owned the ground on which Suffolk-square is now built, sought for, and obtained an Act of Parliament for making a tram-road from Cheltenham to Gloucester. This important undertaking was completed and opened on July 2nd, 1810, by a public procession and dinner, at which the Hon. John Dutton, his lordship's eldest son, presided. The present Promenade, and the walks and drives in the vicinity of Imperial-



square, were enabled to be formed, in 1818, by the conversion of a previously uncultivated portion of the family property into attractive buildings. The Rev. J. Harward, and T. Henney, Esq., assisted in this important undertaking, and apportioned out their respective lots of land, in order to form the present most picturesque road. "The site of the Promenade was formerly a brick-field, with a rude plank thrown over the Chelt by way of a bridge. The ground belonged to the Rev. J. Harward, who made an arrangement with the late T. Henney, Esq, the latter undertaking the planning out, and sale of the property for building purposes, for which it was understood he was to take one third of the whole, giving to Mr Harward, the remaining two thirds. This answered the purpose of both parties well, one finding the ground, the other the talent to make it profitable

and ornamental." After the trees had become fully grown, and the beautiful arched promenade formed, Mr. Henney dedicated it to the public. It is now, in common with the rest of the town, under the care of the Cheltenham Improvement Commissioners, under whose Act powers are given to preserve and maintain these fine spreading trees. We present views of this fine natural promenade, and of the handsome structure which terminates it—the Queen's Hotel.

Sherborne Spa, occupied by the site of the Queen's Hotel, and the long and picturesque road which faced it to the High-street, was, as a token of public respect, dedicated as "the Sherborne Promenade." Still more recently the Sherborne family have shown a regard to the religious and commercial interests of the town. The population increasing so rapidly, the Parish Church was found to be much too small to meet the wants of the additional residents and visitors. To remedy this defect, a project was set on foot to erect a new church. After treating with the Government for a loan, and attempting to raise the requisite sum by voluntary subscription, the idea was abandoned, both sources proving unsuccessful. In this trying emergency, Lord Sherborne nobly stepped forward, supplied the sum requisite on mortgage, and Trinity Church, capable of affording accommodation for 900 persons, was finished in 1822. The present spacious Market House, and Arcade, with its Gothic entrance from the High-street, was also built by his lordship in the same year. Lord Sherborne's name appears as President of the Cheltenham Proprietary College, and Patron of the Philosophical Institution. He was also Patron of the Horticultural Society, the Hospital, the Provident Institution, and other local benevolent societies. Long before "fire brigades" were formed under local Acts of Parliament, the only means of extinguishing fires in the town, was by a fire engine purchased at the expense of the Sherborne family. The fire engine with its accoutrements of leather buckets and leather hoses, was placed in the North porch of the Parish Church, and continued there until a comparatively recent period.

On a painted tablet near the marygold window, in the church, it is recorded that "In the year 1721, Sir John Dutton, Bart., gave a fire engine for the use of this town." The first modern market was erected by Lord Sherborne, where the late Public

Offices stood. The first stone of the building was laid by the stewards of Lord Sherborne on March 30, 1808, in the presence of the County Cavalry Corps and thousands of spectators. As the stone was being lowered, coins of the realm were deposited, and also a brass plate bearing the following inscription :

May this Structure prove advantageous, and conduce to the prosperity  
of the Town of Cheltenham, so deservedly celebrated for its  
salubrious Waters!

Be it known to posterity,

The Right Honourable James Lord Sherborne,  
Baron of Sherborne, in the County of Gloucester,  
The Lord of the Manor, and most benevolent patron  
And well-wisher to the Improvements of this Place,  
A Nobleman ever assiduous and ready to come forward,  
To the Protection of the King and the Church,  
Placed the first stone of this New Market House,  
By Francis Welles, and Theodore Gwinnett, his Stewards,  
(The Corps of Royal Volunteer Cavalry and Infantry  
being assembled upon that occasion)

On the 30th day of the Month of March,

In the year of our Lord 1808,

In the Reign of George the Third,

The best and most deservedly beloved of Kings.

Edward Smith, Architect.

Cheltenham, after this event, again so rapidly increased in population, that the then Lord of the Manor was induced to erect the present Market, with the Arcade leading thereto, which was opened on August 5, 1822. The previous Market-house was taken by Messrs Hartland, bankers, and new fronted. The large room above, still existing, was formerly, and is at present set apart for Commissioners' and other meetings, and in it was commenced the first National School in the town. This building is now used by Messrs Williams and Griffiths, solicitors, and from its noble front stands out the town dial. The Hon. J. Dutton, the present heir apparent, is Provincial Grand Master of the Masons of Gloucestershire, and holds his courts periodically at the Freemasons' Lodge in Cheltenham.

Like most of the ancient families of our country, the Sherbornes are of Norman origin. Udardus, or, as he is styled by English writers, Odart, was one of the many warriors who came over to this country with the victorious William the Conqueror. He was steward to Neale, constable of Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester; who bestowed upon him many marks of favour

and esteem. This Odart is the earliest ancestor of the Sherbornes now traceable. He was accompanied to the English shores by five valiant brothers, and Hugh Lupus, to whose service he was more particularly attached, was allied to royalty, being the son of Emma, the Conqueror's sister. The family were presented with Dutton, near Weavenham, in Cheshire, and their descendants afterwards took the surname of de Dutton. Their celebrity was, however, mainly acquired from an act of loyalty. Renulph, the sixth Earl of Chester, occupied the castle of Ruthlain, or Rudland, in Flintshire. On one of the Chester fair-days, the Earl was suddenly attacked in his castle by the Welsh forces. News of this event having reached the city, Ralph Dutton summoned, indiscriminately, the multitude forming the fair, among whom were a large number of fiddlers, and marched them direct to the Earl's rescue. The Welsh were so surprised at the number advancing, that they fled. In reward for this bravery, a charter was granted to Dutton, allowing him and his heirs ever after the sole controul and licensing of minstrels in the county of Chester. The settlement of this ancient family in this locality arose from the purchase of the adjacent Manor of Sherborne by Thomas Dutton, Esq., in the reign of Mary. In 1628, John Dutton, Esq., purchased of the Prince of Wales the Manor of Cheltenham, and thus the family became closely connected with this "Queen of Watering Places." The parish of Sherborne had anciently given title to many of its manorial possessors. This practice, which had been discontinued from the monastic era, was, however, by royal favour, revived, and, in 1784, James Dutton, Esq., was raised to the peerage under the title of Lord Sherborne. He was, at the time of his elevation, one of the Members of Parliament for this county—a honour conferred upon several of his predecessors. The manor of Cheltenham continued in the possession of this family for 215 years, until its purchase by James Agg Gardner, Esq., in 1843.

Odart, the earliest ancestor or founder, was a man of extraordinary bravery, and had given to him "all the bulls out of the spoils taken in Wales, and Weston, and Alston." The sword which he used, according to Rudder, "is still carefully preserved in the Dutton family, having passed over from heir to heir as an heirloom accruing to the house with the next heir." The present Lord Sherborne is the twenty-fourth in lineal descent

from this renowned Odart, the Norman, who came to England in 1066 ; and the family have, consequently, been settled in this country nearly eight centuries. His lordship is also the eighth in descent from John Dutton, Esq., the purchaser of the Cheltenham manor in the 17th century. The Sherborne family are thus so intimately connected with our local topography, that the authentic sources from whence their origin are derived, are worthy of transcription. In "Burn's Justice," under the head of "Vagrants," section "Minstrels," it is said,—“But this shall not prejudice the heirs or assigns of John Dutton, of Dutton, in the county of Chester, Esquire, their heirs or assigns, concerning the liberty, privilege, or inheritance which they, their heirs or assigns, now lawfully use within the county of Chester, by reason of any ancient charters of any kings of this land, or by reason of any prescription, or lawful usage, or title whatsoever.” For the understanding of which clause, we must go back so far as the reign of Richard I. “Randall Blundeville, Earl of Chester, towards the latter end of that king's reign, being suddenly besieged by the Welsh in the castle of Ruthelent, in Flintshire, sent to his constable of Cheshire, one Roger Lacy, who, for his fierceness, was surnamed Hell, to hasten with what force he could to his relief. It happened to be on Midsummer-day, and a great fair then held in Chester: whereupon Roger immediately got together a great lawless mob of fiddlers, players, coblers, and the like, and marched instantly towards the Earl; and the Welsh, seeing a great multitude approaching, raised the siege and fled. The Earl being thus freed, comes back with his constable to Chester; and in memory of his service, by a charter, grants to Roger Lacy and his heirs, power over all the fiddlers, letchers, and—coblers, in Chester. About the latter end of the reign of John, or beginning of Henry III., Roger Lacy being dead, his son John Lacy by deed granted to one Hugh Dutton, his steward, and to his heirs, rule and authority over all the letchers—and in the county.” Another valuable authority, Sir Peter Leycester, in his “Antiquities of Cheshire,” thus remarks : “In the 14 Henry VII., a *quo warranto* was brought against Laurence Dutton, of Dutton, Esquire, to show why he claimed all the minstrels of Cheshire, and in the city of Chester to meet before him in Chester yearly, at the feast of St. John the Baptist, and to give unto him at the said feast 4½d., and why he claimed



from every in Cheshire and in the city of Chester 4d. to be paid yearly at the feast aforesaid. To which he pleaded prescription." These exceptions and particulars are also cited in the Vagrant Acts, (now repealed) passed 14 and 39 Elizabeth. In the 43rd of Elizabeth, it is said, "Before the end of the said year, the said John Dutton or his heirs shall procure the lords chief justices, and lord chief baron, or two of them, on hearing his allegations, and proofs, to make certificate into the chancery, to be there enrolled, that the said John Dutton, or his heirs, ought lawfully, if no statutes against rogues and beggars had been made, by charter, tenure, or prescription, to have such liberty of licensing of minstrels, as he claimeth and useth." In the 1 James, 25, the same clause was continued without limitation, so that it is probable such proof had been made as is alluded to. The exercise of this remarkable privilege is thus recorded by the historian Dugdale :—"And under the aforesaid grant, by ancient custom, the heirs of Dutton to this day do claim and exercise a privilege and authority over all the common fiddlers and minstrels in Chester, and all Cheshire; and in memory thereof keep a yearly court in Chester, on Midsummer Day, being Chester Fair, and in a solemn manner ride attended through the city to the church of St. John the Baptist, with all the fiddlers of the county playing before the Lord Dutton, and then at the court renew their licenses yearly; and none ought to use the trade or employment of a fiddler, either within the city or county, but by an order or license of that court." This list of authorities might be easily increased, but sufficient has, we think, been already quoted to prove the origin of the Dutton, now Sherborne family.

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THE DE LA BERE FAMILY.

The De La Bere family were the largest owners of property in the town, both before and after the formation of the many roads and drives that now exist. Their local connection has extended over three centuries. At the time the place was being called into notice and the spas established, the resident members of this truly ancient family, rendered important service to the inhabitants. The Rev. J. De la Bere frequently conducted the services at the Parish Church, half a century since, at a period when it was the only church in the parish, and was crowded with some of the first nobility in the land, who had come to drink the waters. The subject and text of these discourses are regularly enlarged upon in the pages of the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of that period. When the first attempt was made to establish a local branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in 1814, Thomas Bagott De la Bere, Esq., took the chair at a public meeting, and his influence and perseverance was such that from that time to the present the institution has continued to prosper, and maintain its own depôt for the sale of the Holy Scriptures. J. De la Bere, Esq., the steward of the Manor, resided in the High-street, in a house since converted into the Royal Hotel. He also acted as a magistrate for the district. The Rev. J. Edwards, the respected resident vicar of Prestbury, and a local justice of the peace, is the nearest collateral representative, on the female side of this once famed family, now surviving.

At one period the only "justice of the peace" for the entire neighbourhood was T. De la Bere, Esq. In 1779, John De la Bere, Esq., purchased of the Earl of Essex, all the tythes which supported the perpetual curacy of Cheltenham, and also

the tythes and glebe belonging to the hamlets of Alstone, Westall, Sandford, and Naunton. The clerical property of the two last named places passed to his son, the Rev. J. De la Bere, who afterwards disposed of his interest in them to separate individuals. But the other hamlets were sold during the lifetime of the original purchaser, and the act has led to one of the most spirited improvements the town has undergone. In 1801, Henry Thompson, Esq. bought for a nominal sum that portion of the property of John De la Bere, Esq., which bounded the Bay's Hill estate, and extended from the Gloucester-road to Sandford-fields. The extent of this land was nearly four hundred acres, and the purchaser having by experimental borings, ascertained the existence of mineral waters, proceeded to erect a Pump Room, Baths, Salts, Manufactory, and ultimately to lay out and form the Lansdown-road, and other parts adjacent as represented in



our sketch, now confessedly the most fashionable portion of the town. At the same time the Earl of Suffolk purchased thirty acres adjoining of J. De la Bere, Esq., for the sum of £2,800. This property consisted of a farm-house, (occupying the site of the present Suffolk-house,) with its uncultivated pasture lands. His Lordship's daughter, Lady Catherine Howard afterwards sold the farm for £14,000, and it was formed into Suffolk-lawn, Suffolk-square, St. James's Church and the entrance to the Park being the boundary. Thus, what was once little better than a barren waste, now forms the most attractive and valuable part of Cheltenham. An idea may be formed of the great change that has taken place in the value of this property, from the fact that when Mr. Thompson first possessed that portion of it which

now constitutes "the Lansdown and Montpellier estates," it was deemed so far valueless as to be regarded as extra-parochial, and not liable to be rated. The rapid transformation of the De-la-Bere land, on the Montpellier side of the town into some of the most valuable of our local property, is very fully and accurately detailed by Mr. Davies in his "Cheltenham Past and Present." The present beautiful drive from the Midland



Station by the Lansdown Hotel, is on a part of the property thus improved, as our engraving represents; and also Lansdown Crescent, which heads this chapter.

Another way in which the De la Beres promoted the interest of Cheltenham in its more youthful days, was by the maintenance of a pack of hounds, which afforded both resident and visitor an opportunity of enjoying the invigorating sports of hunting. This example was afterwards followed by the representative of another ancient family — the late Earl Fitzhardinge.

"In 1779, John De la Bere, Esq., purchased of the Earl of Essex, all the tythes and glebe of the three last places, and of his own in Allstone, and re-sold them to the different proprietors, these estates therefore being tythe free, were not included in the act of inclosure" (Rudge).

In the Parish Church are interred several members of this ancient race. The following inscription occurs on a white marble tablet:—

"Near this place lie the remains of Ann, wife of Bernard Dewes, Esq., daughter of John De la Bere, Esq., who, with great beauty of power and elegance of diction, united the more valuable endowment of simple virtue and most amiable sweetness of manners and disposition. Her early loss will be long and severely lamented by her friends, and in a more particular manner by her afflicted husband, who, with the deepest regret, inscribes this marble to her memory. She left two children, too young to be sensible of their great loss, and died Aug. 13th, in the 30th year of her age, A.D 1780."

William the Conqueror having resolved upon taking possession of this country, marched from Normandy with a large number of soldiers, commanded by the flower of the Norman nobility. William having captured our island, rewarded the nobles who accompanied him, by gifts of land and estates in different quarters of the kingdom. From these nobles have descended the De la Bere, Sherborne, and various other families of our locality. The original De la Beres obtained an estate at Kennersley, in Herefordshire, where they resided in great splendour. By intermarriages, they became connected with some of the most distinguished families of the "feudal ages;" among the number were the Talbots, the Scudamores, and the Huddlestons. The last-named relationship with the De la Bere family was effected in the reign of Henry VII.,—Sir John Huddleston's only daughter, Ellen, marrying Kinnard De la Bere, Esq. By this marriage, the adjacent mansion at Southam became the property of the De la Beres and continued in their possession until it was sold some few years since to Lord Ellenborough.

The fifth descendant of this ancient family, Richard De la Bere, Esq., was appointed by Edward III. Sheriff of Herefordshire, for ten successive years, viz., from 1362 to 1372. Another Richard De la Bere also enjoyed the royal favour of Henry VII., and, for his heroic conduct at the battle of Stoke, was created a baronet in the field by that monarch. To form a just idea of the many honourable marks of distinction that have been bestowed on successive members of this illustrious family, the reader should visit the family tomb at Cleeve Church. The various heraldic honours which adorn this memento, are far more convincing proofs of their greatness than the historian can adduce. In Prestbury church and yard, there are also tablets erected to the memory of the more recent members of the family, particularly the female branches. Some of the more ancient branches also repose within the precincts of the Cheltenham





*Lodge Gate, Park Estate, 21*

Parish Church. The De la Beres were connected on the female side with some of the early kings of England and Scotland. By marriage the family is descended from William of Scotland, and united with the line of Plantagenet. Stephen De la Bere married Matilda, daughter of Thomas Pye, Esq., by whom he had a daughter, Joan, who became the wife of Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Essex, and Northampton, and high constable of England, by whom she was mother of two daughters, Eleanor and Mary. The former married to Thomas Plantagenet, surnamed of Woodstock, son of King Edward III., and uncle to King Richard II.; Mary married to Henry Plantagenet, surnamed Bolingbroke, who was proclaimed King of England, by the name of Henry IV. Henry V. was born from this marriage. Many other illustrious descendants on the female side might also be narrated down to a very recent period. Several of the early members of this family died without male issue, and the next of kin assumed the name and arms. In this way the surname Bagott became adopted. Kinnard De la Bere, Esq., dying in 1735, without a direct male descendant, the property and title devolved to his nephew, William Bagott, Esq., of Prestbury, whose descendants adopted the name of Bagott De la Bere. This title, however, also became extinct, in consequence of a want of male issue. "The last of their race," on the male side, Thomas Bagott De la Bere, died on Dec. 5, 1821, at the advanced age of 93. The crest of the De la Bere family was five ostrich feathers issuing out of a ducal coronet. This honourable mark of distinction was obtained by a very early ancestor—Sir Richard De la Bere, at the ever memorable Battle of Cressy, for saving the life of Edward the Black Prince. This circumstance forms the most interesting portion of the history of this ancient family, as we shall endeavour to illustrate.

Edward III. having laid claim to the crown of France, determined to prosecute that claim by force of arms; he sailed from the port of Southampton with a thousand battle ships, containing thirty thousand men. He was accompanied by his son, who had just then attained his sixteenth year, and by the principal nobility of England. Among those who belonged to this locality, were—Sir Richard De-la-Bere; Lord Chandos, whose remains are interred at Sudeley Castle; and several members



of the Berkeley, Sherborne, Hicks, and Trye families. The French army, which Edward III. had to encounter, was threefold more numerous than his own. By stratagem, the English king passed several of the great rivers, although closely pursued by the enemy, and landed on the opposite shore. The two armies were now in view of each other—the river forming the mark of separation. Edward III. spent the night in surrounding his position with trenches. The next morning, August 26, 1346, he drew up his army in three divisions, near the village of Cressy. The command of the first division he gave to his son, the Black Prince, giving him for his guides, Lord Chandos, and the brave Earl of Warwick. At three o'clock in the afternoon, the French army advanced. The attack was commenced by fifteen thousand Genoese cross-bowmen. But a shower falling, wetted their bow-strings, and their volley had no effect. The English archers, whose weapons had been protected from the rain, immediately discharged their arrows, which told so well, as to throw the whole body of the enemy into confusion. The first blow decided the fortune of the day. The remainder of the affair was a rout, rather than a battle. The Genoese were trodden under foot, and cut to pieces, principally by the French themselves, who were pressed on every side by these, their allies, as much as by their enemies. At length, however, one of the divisions of the French army, having got clear of this tumult, suddenly attacked the Black Prince with great fury. At this important crisis, Sir. Richard De la Bere rushed to the rescue of the youthful prince, fighting sword in hand most valiantly, and preserved his life. This attack was followed by another, directed against the prince, by three fresh squadrons of French and Germans. On this, the Earl of Warwick despatched a messenger to King Edward, begging him to bring up his reserve, and save his son. "Is the Prince dead, or wounded, or felled to the ground?" inquired the King; and on being told that he was still alive, "No," said he, "the glory of this day shall be his own, as he deserves it should; while he lives I shall not interfere." In a few minutes the French army were driven back: the Black Prince now in turn advanced with his men; the English army bore down all before them. After the victory, the father and his son met, and embraced each other, their hearts exulting with joy and thankfulness. "God give grace, my dear son," said the father, "to preserve you in the

work you have begun ; you have acquitted yourself nobly, and deserve the imperial crown for which we have fought." The youth bowed to the ground, and said nothing. With all his fire and daring in battle, he had none of the father's presumption ; and throughout his life, he never showed an inclination to take merit to himself, or to trample upon the rights of others. Early on the next morning, many thousands more of the enemy were slain, by a body of horsemen whom Edward sent forth to clear the country. It is said that altogether thirty thousand of the French fell in that memorable battle, among whom were the two Kings of Bohemia and Majorca, the nephew of the French King, three other sovereign princes, twenty-four baronets, twelve hundred knights, fifteen hundred gentlemen, and four thousand esquires. The English lost only three knights and one esquire, and but very few of the common soldiers. Victory being now decisive, and the scene of carnage ended, the nobility who had fought so nobly in the battle-field, were summoned into the presence of the King and his son. Title upon title, honour upon honour, estate upon estate, were bestowed successively upon all, according to their respective merits. The youthful Prince presented Richard De la Bere to his father, and related the manner in which he had saved his life. The King first created him a knight, and then, in a most solemn manner, placed upon his head a ducal coronet, having five ostrich feathers—a prize won from the enemy by the prince himself. A very curious old painting on pannel, which is engraved in Bigland's collections, still exists, representing Sir Richard De la Bere, in a kneeling posture, receiving the crest after the battle, from Edward. This is supposed to have been executed soon after the introduction of oil painting in England, and is in good preservation.

It is a remarkable fact, that a portion of the army that served under the Black Prince were "volunteers" from this county. They were three hundred in number, and commanded by Maurice Lord Berkeley. Of the valour of these Gloucestershire "rifles" in the olden time, Smith, in his "Lives of the Berkeleys," thus speaks,—“ And I may avouch that the genius and natural courage of these my country Captaynes, and their soldiers, thus for ever renowned in this wonderful battle, liveth in their posterities that now flourish, as the next ages will declare, when they have such a king and a prince to follow.”

In later times this name and royalty were again brought into contact. Miss Burney, the maid of honour to Queen Charlotte, in her *Journal of the Royal visit to Cheltenham* in 1788, remarks, "The sweet Miss P—— received me with her usual kind joy, and introduced me to her friends, who are Mr. De la Bere, the master of the house and chief magistrate of Cheltenham, and his family."

#### THE TRYE FAMILY.

The Trye family have been most intimately connected with Cheltenham for several centuries. Many of their members have held local offices, and have taken an interest in promoting the welfare of the town. The Tryes are identified with the manor as owners, and with judicial and parochial institutions. In past times they have rendered great service by assisting in the establishment of benevolent societies, when the small population of the town rendered such a work one of difficulty. In order to increase the means of accommodation in the Parish Church, a female member of the Tryes—Mrs. Anne Norwood—in 1628 erected, at her own expense, a gallery at the west end. Several members of this ancient family are interred in the Parish Church and yard.

One of their ancestors, William Norwood, Esq., was lessee of the manor of Cheltenham from 1589 to 1603, and was a person of considerable legal ability. In the 32nd year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, he was the defendant in an action brought against him by the Queen's Attorney-General, respecting the rights and customs of the manor. His knowledge of local records enabled him to obtain a verdict in his favour, as will be seen on referring to the account of this truly important trial, which will be found fully detailed in another part of this work.

A more recent descendant stands distinguished as a medical practitioner, and as the author of many practical and useful schemes in the town and its vicinity. This was Charles Brandon Trye, Esq., F.R.S., many years Senior Surgeon to the Gloucester Infirmary. As a surgeon he attained the highest eminence in his art, in which he was deeply skilled. He died in 1811, and

a large and handsome monument is erected to his memory in Gloucester Cathedral.

"The late Charles Brandon Trye" (writes his relative and biographer, the late Rev. Danl. Lysons) "was the elder son of the Rev. John Trye, of Haresfield and Leckhampton. He was born, August the 21st, 1757. At the age of seven he was placed at the Grammar School at Cirencester. His father died when he was in his ninth year, and his mother, of whose pious care in instructing him from his earliest childhood in religious duties he ever cherished the most grateful remembrance, survived him about two years. He was distinguished at school as a boy of bright parts, and soon acquired the common attainments of scholastic education. A facility of writing Latin, which he then possessed, he retained through life, as appears by a medical book which he left behind him in that language, and a brief memoir of himself found among his papers." This facility of writing Latin was kept up by him in after-life, by a constant perusal of the classics, although he was not urged, like many of the clergy who are classical preceptors, to refer to them so frequently and attentively for the purpose of instructing pupils. But he lets us into the secret of this penchant for literary pursuits, by saying that he was "*scientiæ amantissimus*" [most fond of knowledge], as well as from his good mother's early instruction, "*religionis veræ observans*" [observant of true religion]. No wonder, then, that Trye, ever joining together religious and secular learning, should have left behind him many devout prayers and meditations in English and Latin, which he had written and used for his own help and direction, and that he should have been capable of writing a work in Latin for the press, and of publishing in English several pamphlets on professional subjects of great merit. Such devotion to the Most High, united with devotedness to a most useful profession, produced, as might be expected, sentiments and services which will probably continue to be so many sources of blessing to many generations yet to come.

Dr. Trye, during his residence in the locality, took an interest in the welfare of the town. He was one of the personal friends of the immortal discoverer of vaccination—Dr. Jenner, then a local practitioner. Dr. Trye warmly espoused the theory of Jenner, as to the value of inoculation by cow pox; and the

pages of the *Cheltenham Chronicle* down to 1817, contain many eloquent letters written in Jenner's defence, and against the prejudices that then locally existed.

Dr. Trye was not alone celebrated for his medical knowledge ; he was of a philosophic turn of mind, and suggested and carried into effect many important improvements in this locality. He formed the plan by which the barren rock of the adjoining hill of Leckhampton was rendered profitable, by opening quarries, which he found to contain stone of durable quality, and capable of being worked with great facility. He projected, and at his own expense constructed the tram-road leading from the quarries on Leckhampton hill to the Cheltenham and Gloucester tram-road. The present family representative is the Rev. C. B. Trye, the resident rector of Leckhampton. Like his ancestor, Dr. Trye, this gentleman devotes much of his time to the promotion of works of practical utility. The Rev. C. B. Trye is one of the Cheltenham Magistrates, and a valuable member of the Board of Guardians, rendering assistance and support to all disinterested schemes for improving the pauper, morally and socially. He has for many years been a constant attendant at the weekly meetings of the Guardians, and has filled the office of chairman. With other local institutions of a benevolent character, he is also connected. As a preacher, Mr. Trye is highly acceptable, and evinces earnestness and simplicity. The wants of his poorer parishioners also occupy his attention, as is manifest by the establishment of a Free School for the rising generation, and the adoption of the allotment system for adults. In an agricultural parish such institutions must undoubtedly be a great boon.

The Trye family are of ancient origin, and derive their name from the town of Trye, in Normandy. The surviving members are descended, collaterally by the female line from the Norwood family, and lineally from the Norman Tryes. In more ancient times, the Tryes have been associated with events of national interest. Reginald de Trye was slain in a battle near Bruges, in 1302. Matthew de Trye did homage, as marshal of France, to Edward II., for lands in Ponthein, and Sir James de Trye was taken prisoner and brought to England in the reign of Henry IV. Rawlin de Trye, the first of the name resident in Gloucestershire, married in 1380, an heiress of the house of Berkeley, and became invested with a manor in that parish.

His third descendant, John Trye, married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Almeric de Boteler a Park, and in 1449, obtained as her dower, the manor of Hardwick, which remained vested in this family for five generations. Thomas Trye, Esq., who possessed Hardwick in 1730, having obtained the permission of Parliament, sold it in 1733 to Sir Philip Yorke, then Attorney-General, who on his being appointed Lord Chancellor of England, was created Baron, and afterwards Earl of Hardwick. John Trye, Esq., was twice chosen M.P. for the city of Gloucester, and was the first Mayor of that city, to which office he was appointed in 1483, by Richard III., when he granted the charter by which the civil government was altered. John, the second son of William Trye, Esq., married Elizabeth Gourney, niece and co-heiress of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, the favourite of Henry VIII., and distinguished by the attachment of that King's sister, Mary, Queen of Louis XI. The Rev. John Trye, vicar of Haresfield, married Mary, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Norwood, then Lord of the Manor, and patron and incumbent of the Leckhampton rectory. Their son, Charles Brandon Trye, Esq., became possessed of the manor and advowson on the death of his cousin, Henry Norwood, Esq.

A very celebrated member of this family is distinguished for his heroic conduct in the history of the protracted civil wars; this was Colonel Henry Norwood:—"He was most warmly attached to Charles I., and shared persecutions with that monarch's partizans. In the reign of Charles II. he was made governor of Tangiers. He was once, with a ship's crew, reduced to such an extremity for want of provisions, that—

"Out they spoke for lots of flesh and blood,  
And who should die to be his fellow's food.

\* \* \* \*

The lots were made, and marked, and mixed, and handed  
In silent horror!"——

and the victim was permitted to descend into the hold and prepare himself for death—but the very horror of his situation saved them the necessity of shedding his blood; he expired from actual fear as soon as he descended. Notwithstanding his fate, their hunger overcame all scruples, and they devoured the body."

"Colonel Henry Norwood, who held the estate in the reign of Charles I., was eminently loyal to that ill fated monarch, and distinguished in the civil war by his valiant spirit." "His third descendant, John Trye, married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Almeric de Boteler a Park, and in 1449, obtained as her dower, the manor of Hardwick, which remained vested in his family for five generations. Hardwick, pursuant to an Act of Parliament obtained for that purpose in 1730, by Thomas Trye, Esq., was sold in 1773, to Sir Phillip Yorke, then Attorney-General, who, upon his being appointed Lord Chancellor of England, was created Baron, and afterwards Earl of Hardwick in Gloucestershire" (Griffiths).

The first settlement of the family in this immediate locality was by possession of the Leckhampton Manor, in 1486. Rudge says that the property at that date, "came by marriage of Eleanor, daughter and co-heiress of John Giffard, Esq., to John Norwood, from whom it descended in right line to Henry Norwood, Esq., who dying in 1797, left it by will to Charles Brandon Trye, Esq., of Gloucester, great grandson of Thomas Trye, Esq., of Hardwick, who married Mary, daughter of Thomas Norwood, Esq., of Leckhampton. Both are very ancient families. The former trace their origin from the Norwoods of Kent, in the reign of Henry II., and the monument of Jordan Norwood, the ancestor, is still to be seen in Minster church. The Tryes, as appears on the family monument at Hardwick, in this county, derived their name and origin from a town called Trye, whence they came into England about six hundred years ago. Rawlin Trye was the first of the family, and Charles Brandon Trye, Esq., the thirteenth lineal descendant from him. Hardwick (four miles from Gloucester), in 1449, came to John Trye, by right of marriage with Elizabeth, the co-heiress, in which family it continued for more than three hundred years. The South Chancel of Hardwick church is the dormitory of the family of Trye, and has many monuments and memorials of their family."

## THE HICKS FAMILY.

The Hicks family are connected with the past history of our religious and judicial institutions. During the seventeenth century, the rectory was purchased of King James by Sir Baptist Hicks; and ever since that period successive members have, by their residence and aid, assisted in advancing the welfare of the town. The collateral descendant, Lady Cromie, is often a sojourner, and her name (like her ancestors,) is to be found on the "contribution list" of many of our local charities.

Within the past half century, the sole administrator of justice in Cheltenham was the late male representative of the Hicks family, then William Hicks, Esq. At this period he resided in a house situated near the site of the present Belle Vue Hotel; and, in more recent times, after he became, by heirship, possessed of the title of Sir W. Hicks, Bart., he was the senior magistrate. In 1798, he formed and commanded, for several years, the Cheltenham Volunteer Infantry—a body of inhabitants associated together on account of the contemplated French invasion, and who received from George III. special thanks for their services.

In 1830, in consequence of a circular from Lord Melbourne, a public meeting was held at the Assembly Rooms, to take steps to prevent the incendiary riots then so prevalent. Sir W. Hicks, as senior magistrate, presided. The Rev. F. Close proposed this resolution,—“This meeting has the satisfaction to be enabled to declare, that the general conduct of the inhabitants of this town and district, so far as their experience goes, has been loyal and peaceable.”

By possession of the rectory, officially and by residence, the Hicks family have now been connected with Cheltenham for upwards of three centuries. Various branches of the family stand distinguished for valiant deeds and good qualities in the annals of the past, and it is a singular coincidence, that the first time the Hickses were celebrated, was during the same engagement which called into notice an early ancestor of another ancient local family, the De la Beres. Sir Ellis Hicks, who was a favourite at the court of Edward III., received an appointment to attend Edward the Black Prince in his warlike tour, which so triumphantly ended with the battle of Cressy. Sir E. Hicks



displayed such valour at that memorable battle, that in consequence of his having taken a standard from the enemy, the king gave him three *fleurs de lis* for his armorial bearings, and created him a knight banneret. His descendant, John Hicks, settled at Tortworth, in this county, where he died in 1486, and his estate devolved to Robert Hicks, of London, who had three sons, Michael, Francis, and Baptist. The former of these, who died in 1612, purchased the Witcomb Manor, which has since been possessed by his descendants, all of whom have been intimately connected with this town. His brother, Baptist Hicks, who was knighted by James I. in 1620, and created Viscount Campden by Charles I., purchased the Cheltenham Rectory. He was a man of great enterprise, and accumulated considerable wealth. He built Hicks Hall, in London, and a mansion at Campden, in this county, of a very remarkable character. Its site covered eight acres of ground. It had four fronts, and a large dome issued from the roof, which was lighted during the night, and formed a guide to the weary traveller. The building of this princely abode cost Sir B. Hicks £30,000, yet it was all destroyed by its owner during the civil wars, that it might not form a garrison for Oliver Cromwell's troops—an act to be lamented, for the house was never approached by insurgents. The elder brother of Sir Baptist was Michael Hicks, who was an eminent lawyer, and became secretary to the Lord Burleigh. He received the honour of knighthood in 1612. His son, William, was created a baronet by James I. in 1619, and was a warm partizan of that monarch during the period of the rebellion. He died in 1680, leaving issue, two sons, William and Michael, who were knighted in their infancy by Charles II. Sir William, knight and baronet, died in 1703, having issue—Henry and Charles. Sir Henry died in 1754, leaving two sons, Robert and Michael. The latter died unmarried in 1764, and Sir Robert in 1768, without issue. The title was next enjoyed by Sir John Baptist Hicks, the son of Charles, who dying without issue in 1791, was succeeded by Sir Howe Hicks, grandson of Sir Michael. Upon the death of Sir Howe, the title and estate devolved to Sir William Hicks, Bart., who died on October 23, 1834, at the age of 82. His daughter, Lady Cromie, resides at the ancient mansion at Witcomb, six miles from Cheltenham—a locality the most charming that can be

conceived, and which comprehends a routine of mountain and vale scenery, little inferior to any landscape view in fair Italy. Sir William was succeeded by Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P. for the county, who died in 1854. "The late baronet was grandson of Michael Hicks, second son of Sir Howe Hicks, who assumed the surname of Beach upon marrying, in 1779, Henrietta Maria, only daughter of W. Beach, Esq., of Nertheravon. Their son, Michael Beach, born in 1780, married, 26th January, 1809, Caroline Jane, eldest daughter of W. Mount, Esq., of Wasing Place, Berks. To them was born, in 1809, Michael Hicks, the late baronet, who had consequently, when he died, but just completed his 45th year. Sir Michael married, 14th August, 1832, Harriett Vittoria, daughter of John Stratton, Esq., of Northamptonshire, by whom he leaves Sir Michael Edward, born 28rd October, 1857, the present baronet, and a family of six other children, one son and five daughters." (*Cheltenham Examiner*, Dec. 6, 1854).

Sir Baptist Hicks, Bart., who was so long connected with the Improprate Rectory of Cheltenham, was thrice returned Member of Parliament for Tewkesbury. In Bennett's History of that ancient borough, it is recorded that "Sir Baptist Hicks, Bart., that mirror of his time, was created Viscount Campden by Charles I., in 1628. He was a great mercer in London, at the accession of James I., and acquired so large a fortune, principally by supplying the courts with silks, that he left his two daughters £100,000 each. He built a large house in St. John's Street, for the Justices of Middlesex to hold their Sessions in: this, although it is now demolished, still gives to the sessions house the name of Hicks Hall. In Campden Church is a stately altar tomb, on a raised slab of black marble, with the effigies recumbent of Viscount Campden and his lady, in their robes of state and coronets. The canopy is supported by twelve pillars, of Egyptian marble. The following is a part of the inscription on one of the tablets:—"To the memory of her dear deceased husband, Baptist Lord Hicks, Viscount Campden, born of a worthy family in the city of London, who, by the blessing of God on his ingenious endeavours, arose to an ample estate, and to the aforesaid degree of honour; and out of those blessings disposed to charitable uses, in his life time, a large portion, to the value of £10,000, who lived religiously, virtuously, and

generously, to the age of seventy-eight years, and died Oct. 18, 1629." His lordship left, by will, considerable property to charitable purposes, particularly to the poor of Tewkesbury, Campden, and places adjacent.



#### THE SKILLICORNE FAMILY.

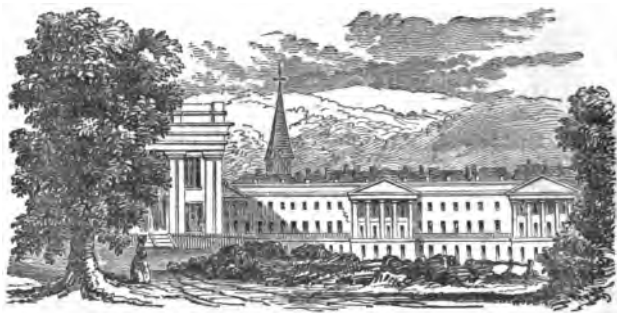
At the early part of the eighteenth century, the Parish Church, Grammar School, Alms House, two markets, a few inns and straggling houses, denoted the High Street. The native stream of the Chelt passed by; and one pump, or "common fountain," (as the manorial books record) was placed in the centre, for the use of its rural inhabitants. Without the line of this main street were farms and pasture lands, with all the accompaniments of a rustic life. The "church stile" across the mead led to a miry lane, bounded by a brook overshadowed with trees. On the opposite side of the rivulet a green field might be seen, where nature revelled unadorned save by the hay stack and farmstead. Beneath a sandy surface, a thick blue clay was exposed to view, and a spring of water oozed out, which spread itself a few yards upon the ground, and then was evaporated by the heat of the sun, leaving salt crystals behind, as if to mark its course. Flocks of pigeons came daily, as well as the cattle of the farmers, to drink at this alkaline well. At length its curious particles scattered on the earth, attracted attention, and its medicinal virtues were made known. It was then circumscribed by a kind of mound, surrounded by a rude fence, and a small

shed thrown over it. Such was Cheltenham south of the Old Church, in 1716. And what is the condition of the same ground in this the nineteenth century?—It is covered with stately mansions, elegant villas, groups of terraces, as repre-



sented in our sketches, spas, and ornamented with its Promenade of lofty elm trees, pronounced by Moreau to be "the most beautiful artificial walk in England." Where was once the rude team driven by the whistling carter along an almost impassable road, is now a beautiful drive, upon which the equipage of the great and wealthy hourly appears. Whence this change and wonderful transformation in little more than a century of time? By whose aid and help was the farm yard supplanted, and the fashionable promenade substituted in its stead?—It was the work of an individual, whose name and family pedigree we here record. We trust that it may be the means of perpetuating the memory of one to whom the town at large stands so deeply indebted. The mineral waters had been discovered, but it required a man with spirit and enterprise to make the world acquainted with the fact. There lay the treasure in the bowels of the earth, surrounded by unapproachable roads, and used by the rude population, or conveyed away to distant villages by the uncultivated carrier on his horse and pillion. These almost untoward circumstances seemed to present unsurmountable obstacles to any change, but they were all overcome

by the indomitable perseverance of Captain Henry Skillicorne. This noble minded man first came to the town (whose fortunes he so improved) in 1738. The ground which contained the spring of water, was the property of a Mr. Mason, whose daughter Captain Skillicorne had married. Upon that gentleman's death, the Captain, who was residing at Bristol, became, in right of his wife, the owner. Upon his settlement in Cheltenham he turned his attention to his estate, and commenced



and perfected those improvements, which will for ever identify his name with our local history. He laid out the Old Well walks, planned the roads and drives around, and planted that stately row of elm trees which have been so much admired by visitors. These beautiful elms have now withstood the rude blast for nearly a century ; and beneath their shady repose many an invalid has enjoyed the invigorating breeze and shelter from the summer's heat.

“ Hear nature's voice, and share in her delights ;  
 To taste pure joy she every one invites,  
 To every sense has she not cater'd well ?  
 Are not her pleasures more than tongue can tell ?  
 Choose ye the shade ? my ancient walk will suit ;  
 With which for rivalry who will dispute ?  
 Its tower'ing elms their leafy heads display,  
 And quite exclude the sultry heat of day.  
 When at my earliest fount, you turning trace  
 The vista's length, see with what pleasing grace,  
 It seems to finish with that time worn spire,  
 A termination doubtless you admire.”

*Toovey's "Cheltenham."*

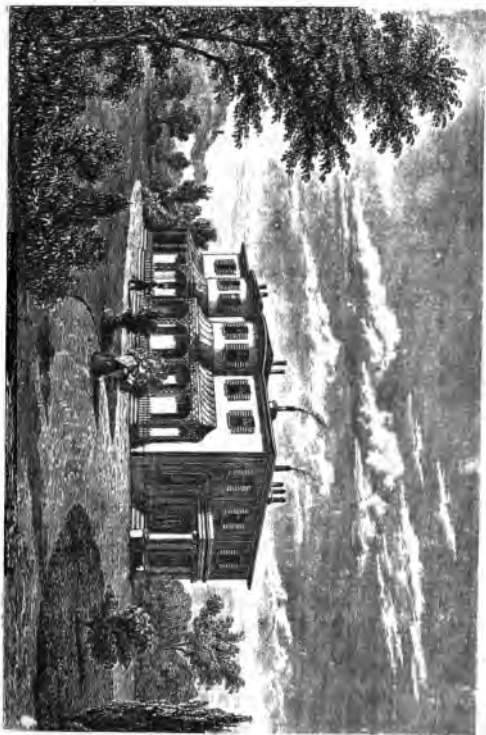
"Captain Skillicorne planted those noble elms which now adorn the Upper and Lower Walks of the Old Spa, and which excite the admiration of every visitor. I honour the comprehensive mind, that, like John Evelyn in his rambles, saw the giant oak in the tiny acorn, which he planted as he strolled along; and I never repose under the shade of these stately trees, which overarch the wide promenade leading to the Royal Old Well, but I invoke a blessing on his memory, and murmur to the whispering leaves a sufferer's gratitude." (Letters on Cheltenham).

Captain Skillicorne erected a pump room, rooms over the different wells that he formed, and ultimately established the first Spa. He lived to the patriarchal age of 84 years. In twenty-five years after he had passed away, his labours were justly appreciated by royalty, when George the Third and members of the royal family drank of those waters which he had been the means of making known, and the result has been ever since a progressive population, which has now reached to 40,000! He was indeed a remarkable man. The manuscripts which exist in his handwriting, and which we have frequently quoted, have afforded us most valuable information in preparing our work for the press. Captain Skillicorne died in 1763, and the work of improvement which he commenced was carried on by his descendant, William Skillicorne, Esq., who was gathered to his fathers in 1803. This gentleman erected the late Bay's Hill House, which was the residence of King George the Third during his visit, and of which we give a beautiful illustration in our frontispiece. He let it on lease to the Earl of Fauconberg, which accounts for its having been called Fauconberg Lodge; and that nobleman placed this mansion at His Majesty's disposal. The King was so pleased with the fine situation, that he built additional rooms at his own expense. Wm. Skillicorne, Esq., died unmarried, and his sister Elizabeth married the Rev. Thos. Nash, D.D., Rector of Salford, Oxon. The issue of this marriage was three daughters and one son—the Rev. Richard Skillicorne Nash, B.A., who held the same rectory as his father. This divine was the heir to the family estates, which he inherited under the will of William Skillicorne, Esq., and henceforth took the name of Skillicorne. The Rev. R. S. N. Skillicorne married Anna Maria Ballinger, only daughter of William Ballinger, Esq.,

of Cheltenham, and had issue, two daughters and one son, the present William Nash Skillicorne, Esq., Magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant of the county. This gentleman, like his ancestor, Captain Skillicorne, has effected some most beneficial changes on the estate. The ground which surrounded the King's residence had all the appearance of a country field, and its grove and rows of oak trees, and foot paths and rude stiles yet live in the memory of many. This rural drive is now converted into one of the most beautiful and valuable estates on the south side of the town, and known as the Bays Hill Estate. It commences at the Royal Old Wells and extends to the boundaries of Lansdown and the Gloucester road. It is covered with the mansions of the wealthy, and the taste of the architect has been developed in the order and variety of the style of building. It is now one of the most fashionable localities, and the property of the highest value. To the present family representative, W. N. Skillicorne, Esq., we are indebted for this great improvement. He it was who first planned and devised the laying out of the ground which has now become an ornament to our beautiful town. Mr. Skillicorne also takes a great interest in all local institutions of a benevolent nature, takes an active part, and bestows his patronage upon whatever is promoted to advance the interest of the town at large. Miss Skillicorne married the Rev. J. Bricknell, rector of Enysham, in Oxfordshire.

James Fallon, Esq., barrister at law, is a collateral relative (having married Miss Skillicorne, Mrs. Bricknell's sister, and daughter of the Rev. R. Skillicorne), and like the family to which he is allied, he takes an active part in promoting every movement set on foot for benefitting the town in which he resides. During his occupancy of Bays Hill house he was honoured with a visit from H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, in 1835, and conducted the Duke through all the apartments occupied by his royal parent, George III. The Duke took a deep interest in every object that was allied to the King's memory.

The memory of a man like Captain Skillicorne, who has done so much to advance the interests of the locality, deserves to be for ever kept up. The influence which he exercised induced one of his descendants to order in his will that his executors should erect a monument to him, and the desirable object was carried



LAKE HOUSE.  
The Property of Mount Pleasant Co. N. Y.





into effect. It is situated in the Parish Church, not far from the pulpit, and is a well executed large white marble tablet. In a historical point of view, the inscription is of the highest value, by supplying dates and particulars that tend to elucidate the modern History of Cheltenham. We here transcribe it verbatim, with the assurance that the reader will feel how deep a debt of gratitude we owe to the subject of the memorial.

"In memory of Captain Henry Skillicorne, born at Kirk Lonnou, in the Isle of Mann, in 1678, taught by Dr. Wilson, bishop, and justly called the good bishop of that island. When young he went to sea, and was many years in the employ of and concerned with Jacob Elton, Esq., merchant, in Bristol, whose relation, Sarah Goldsmith, of that city, he married. She dyed in childbed with two children. He, in 1731, married Elizabeth Mason, then of Bristol, daughter of William Mason, of Cheltenham, gentlemen, by Margaret Surman, daughter of John Surman, of Treddington, in this county, Esq. He, quitting the sea after forty years service, they resided together some years at Bristol, and in 1738 came to live upon their estate in this town, where he gave his mind to encrease the knowledge and extend the use of Cheltenham Spa, which became his property. He found the Old Spring open and exposed to the weather. He made the well there as it now is, made the walks and planted the trees of the upper and lower Parades, and by conduct ingenious and manners attentive, he with the aid of many worthy persons in the town and neighbourhood, brought this most salutary Water to just estimation and extensive use, and ever presiding with esteem in the walks, saw it visited with benefit by the greatest persons of the age, as so established its reputation, that his most gracious Majesty King George the Third, with his most amiable Queen Charlottee, and the Princess Royal Augusta and Elizabeth, their daughters, visited it, drinking the waters, and residing, from the 12th July to the 16th August, both inclusive, 1788, in the Lodge House, built by William Skillicorne, the proprietor thereof, and of the Spa, son of Captain Skillicorne, on his Bays Hill, near thereto, for, and then, and now in Lease to the Right Honourable Earl Fauconberg, who, receiving benefit from this water, for many years spread its good name. Wm. Miller, Esq., the tenant of the Spa, and others of the town, erected new buildings, paved, cleansed, and lighted

the street, encouraged by the gentlemen of the neighbourhood making new roads. The King discovered the New Spring like the Old, which his Majesty steamed and secured, and built Seventeen Rooms at the Lodge House at his own expense, and graciously gave to Mr. Skillicorne, in whose ground, near the House, it was, at the instance of Earl Fauconberg. Captain Skillicorne was buried the 18th October, 1763, with his son Henry, by his last wife, at the west door on the inside of this church, aged 84 years, he was an excellent sea man of tried courage. He visited most of the great trading ports of the Mediterranean, up the Archipelago, Morea, and Turkey, Spain, Portugal, and Venice, and several of the North American ports, Philadelphia, and Boston, and Holland, and could do business in seven tongues. He was of great regularity and probity, and so temperate as never to have been once intoxicated. Religious without hypocrisy, grave without austerity, of a cheerful conversation without levity, a kind husband and tender father. Tall, erect, robust, and active. From an ill treated wound, while a prisoner, after an engagement at sea, he became a strict valetudinarian. He lived and died an honest man. Mrs. Elizabeth Skillicorne, a Quaker, was buried in the Quaker's Grave Yard, upon the 14 April, 1779, a virtuous woman, a good wife, and tender mother. William Skillicorne, Esq., died April 12, 1803, aged 66 years."

#### THE JENNER FAMILY

Dr. Jenner, the celebrated discoverer of vaccination, resided for many years in Cheltenham, and his family have been connected with the county for nearly two centuries. This great philanthropist, who discovered the means of preventing the spread of a life-destroying disease, was born at Berkeley, on May 17, 1749, died on Jan. 26, 1823, at the age of 74, and was buried at Berkeley Church. "It is worthy of remark," says Dr. Fosbroke, "that the house which Dr. Jenner inhabited on his first settling in Cheltenham is situated opposite a drug shop, in the lower part of the High-street, then considered a capital, now an inferior residence." Afterwards he resided at No. 8, St. George's-place. For some years he was the sole physician of note in the town.

Dr. Jenner was one of the original Commissioners named in the Cheltenham Improvement Act of 1821. He was also a local Justice of the Peace. To the late Dr. Barron of Cheltenham, the world is indebted for one of the best memoirs of the great philanthropist. The work was published in two volumes, and contained his private correspondence. From the close intimacy which subsisted between the author and Dr. Jenner, the every day life of the latter is amply revealed. The life of Dr. Jenner is the history of an amiable being, whose sphere was amid the creations of nature and the pursuits of a benignant and placid philosophy—a gentle spirit full of tranquil thoughts and temperate impulses. In establishing the cause of vaccination, Dr. Jenner showed the wisdom of one well versed in the disposition of men, and the knowledge of such modes of conviction as are most acceptable to the human mind.

In 1824, a marble statue, to the memory of Dr. Jenner, was erected in Gloucester Cathedral. It is situate at the West end of the nave, and is the first object that meets the eye upon entering the edifice. It was executed by Siever of London, and is stated by Chantry to be, “among the modern monuments of the Church, the first in distinction and merit.” The Doctor is represented in the gown of his Oxford degree, which gives a fine display of drapery, and adds height and dignity to the figure. In his right hand he holds a scroll; and in his left the appropriate academic cap. The whole figure is beautifully distinguished by classical elegance and simplicity. The statue is seven feet in height, placed upon a pedestal and base of eight feet. Upon the die of the pedestal is simply inscribed “Edward Jenner,” with the time and place of his birth and death; eulogium being an unnecessary accompaniment to a name which is never breathed but with blessings, and which has won its way into the remotest corner of the habitable globe.

A glass memorial window has also been now added to the list of testimonials. The Crystal Palace displays a beautifully executed plaster, and the streets of London a bronze statue, of colossal dimensions, of Dr. Jenner, designed by William Calder Marshall, A.R.A.

The family of the great philanthropist had long been connected with the county. The first known ancestor is buried at Standish Church, in this county, and from the inscription on the

monument, it appears that he died Dec. 16, 1667, at the age of 56. From this person the pedigree commences, and continues *seriatim* to the subject of the present sketch. The next descendant was Stephen Jenner, who was born at Slimbridge, and was buried there in 1727. At this village the family continued to reside for a number of years, and the greater portion of them are buried in the Church. The Rev. S. Jenner, M.A., of Pembroke College, Oxford, Vicar of Berkeley, and Rector of Rockhampton, who died in 1754, married the daughter of the prebendary of Bristol, and sister to the Rev. H. Head, M.A., Rector of Cranford, and Dr. Head, the Master of Saint Catherine's Hospital, London, and had issue a numerous family, some of whom will be noticed. The Rev. S. Jenner, B.D., was Rector of Tittleton, Wilts, and many years perpetual curate of Stone. He died in 1797, distinguished alike for his learning and benevolence. Gardner, in his "*Miscellanies*," thus portrays his character:—"He was a man of excellent good sense, of a retired turn of mind; but which never prevented the exercise of the very liberal and generous virtues of his heart. The most shining part of his character was a quiet amiable modesty, which shrunk from everything bearing the most distant resemblance to ostentation; for nature seemed to have formed him for the uniform practice of that Divine religion whose revelation he sincerely believed. His critical observations were peculiarly penetrative and judicious; and his learning and general abilities, were much greater than his modesty would permit him to display." The Rev. Henry Jenner, M.A., who died in 1798, was chaplain to the Earl of Aylesbury; he had a son, a person of eminence in the army, who was unfortunately shipwrecked off the Island of Portland, Nov. 18, 1796, on his way to the West Indies. In a narrative of the event by Mrs. Charlotte Smith, 8 vol. 1796, it is said that "Lieutenant Jenner was the representative of an ancient and much respected family in Gloucestershire. He had been many years a lieutenant of marines, but had engaged in Colonel Whitelock's regiment, on the promise of a company which his long services entitled him to. He possessed all those engaging and manly qualities which belong to the gentleman, the soldier, and the friend; and it may with truth be said, that he was esteemed by all who knew him." Henry Jenner, M.D. and F.L.S., who died in 1798, was pro-

vincial grand master of the Freemasons for the city of Bristol. His daughter married the Rev. W. Davis, Rector of Eastington. Their youngest child was the celebrated Edward Jenner, F.R.S. and M.D., who, 1788, married Catherine, daughter of Robert Fitzhardinge Kingscote, Esq., of Kingscote.

“In the list of discoveries and inventions for the relief of suffering humanity, no man can overlook the world-wide debt of gratitude owed by mankind to Dr. Jenner, the first to apply the discovery of vaccination to the mitigation of that awful pest, the smallpox, by which millions, in former days, were hurried to their graves. I will not call him the inventor—he did a better thing for us—he made use of the discovery, and taught us how to apply it; and as long as the world stands, I believe the name of Jenner will be remembered not only in England, but all over the world.—(Rev. S. Lysons).

DR. JENNER.—In his latter years he was not a very early riser; but he always spent some part of his time in his study before he appeared at the breakfast table. When in London and at Cheltenham, he generally assembled his scientific and literary friends around him at this hour. Some came for the pleasure of his conversation; some to receive instruction in the history and practice of vaccination. In the country, where his guests were generally his own immediate connexions or his intimate friends, the originality of his character came out in the most engaging manner. He almost always brought some intellectual offering to the morning repast. A new fact in natural history, a fossil, or some of the results of his meditations, supplied materials for conversation; but, in default of these, he would produce an epigram, or a fugitive *jeu d'esprit*; and did not disdain even a pun when it came in his way. His mirth and gaiety, except when under the pressure of domestic calamity or bodily illness, never long forsook him; and even in his old age, the facility with which he adapted his conversation and his manners to the most juvenile of his associates was truly interesting. To have seen and heard him at such times one could hardly believe that he was advanced in years, or these years had been crowded with events so important. — *Baron's Life of Jenner*.

CHARLES JAMES FOX.—The celebrated Charles James Fox, during a residence at Cheltenham, had frequent intercourse with

Jenner. His mind had been a good deal poisoned as to the character of cow-pox by his family physician, Moseley. In his usual playful and engaging manner, he said one day to Jenner, "Pray, Dr. Jenner, tell me of this cow-pox that we have heard so much about:—What is it like?" "Why, it is exactly like the section of a pearl on a rose leaf." This comparison, which is not less remarkable for its accuracy than for its poetic beauty, struck Mr. Fox very forcibly. He laughed heartily, and praised the simile.

The first manifestation of that talent which was afterwards so pre-eminently conspicuous, was in a series of papers read to the members of the Royal Society, more especially on the habits of the cuckoo, a bird whose characteristics were before unknown. After a cautious examination of the disease called cow-pox, which was particularly prevalent in this country among the cows, Dr. Jenner discovered that the inoculation of persons with this disease was a preventative to the ravages of small-pox. He tried the experiment, and the result fully established his fame, and has spread blessings on a large portion of the civilized world. Dr. Jenner made known this important discovery with all the simplicity and modesty which ever mark the man of merit; he sought not riches for his trouble, but finding it would benefit the human race, freely made it known, and the only public emolument he received was a small parliamentary grant. To record on the tomb that he was the inventor of vaccine inoculation is enough permanently to designate him to future ages as the greatest contributor to the physical interests of mankind, in this or any other country. No antecedent improvement in medicine can rank in direct utility with this single one. In every quarter of the globe where it has been actively disseminated, it has effected an immense saving in the destruction of human life, and of human suffering and deformity. In our Eastern and Western colonies, and all over the continent of America, the small-pox has been universally checked. In the European nations of Russia, France, Prussia, Austria, Sweden, and Holland, the small-pox is nearly extinct. The solid basis upon which vaccination now rests, leaves not a doubt of its ultimate success in liberating mankind from a physical evil of the greatest and most horrible description, and produces the conviction that the acumen of Dr. Jenner's reputation is now bu

incipient, and that at its highest it will stand elevated and unrivalled amongst ancient and modern contributions to the good of humanity. An Institution was established some years since in London, with a view to carry out the benevolent intentions of the subject of this sketch, under the title of the "Royal Jennerian Institution."

There is a summer house on Cleve Hill, in the midst of a wood, which Dr. Jenner used to visit for the purpose of obtaining the vaccine from the cows belonging to the farmers in that neighbourhood. Alpha House, on Bayshill, was also used by the philanthropist for the purpose of gratuitous vaccination. So strong was the public prejudice at the first introduction of this new discovery, that the premises referred to were for a long time known as the "Pest House." This residence was afterwards used as a Seminary by Mr. Wilderspin, one of the most zealous promoters of Infant Schools, who resided there for a great number of years. It is now occupied by Mr. G. Norman, the proprietor of the *Cheltenham Examiner*.

"Few persons have brought their talents to bear with more effect in promoting the health and life and vital activity of multitudes of human beings, in almost all parts of the civilized world, than the immortal Dr. Jenner, of Berkeley, in this county. His career, from beginning to end, was one undeviating course of study, which resulted in investigating and making generally known a remedy against the virulence and danger, and ultimately against the prevalence, of the small pox. This horrid disease, we all know, was so sudden in its approach, and so deadly and disfiguring in its usual results, as to occasion a general mortality and panic wherever it was not speedily and skilfully counteracted, like a complete plague. Dr. Jenner, by degrees, and after years of anxious meditation and actual observation, applied what, from an early period, his well-trained genius had led him to consider an antidote to a most infectious and destructive malady. 'In attempting to unfold character, (writes his able historian, the late eminent Dr. Baron, of this city), 'it is not less instructive than it is interesting to find in the private history of a distinguished individual the successive links in the chain of events by which it pleased Providence to conduct him to that eminence where shines the splendour of his genius and his intellect. This progress, in the case of Jenner, can luckily



be delineated with much accuracy. While yet a youth, and just entering on his elementary studies, that impression was made upon his mind which laid the foundation of all his future researches respecting vaccination; and with the constancy of a character fitted and fashioned for great achievements, it was never permitted to escape from his consideration till it terminated in that wonderful discovery, the effects of which all nations have enjoyed.' The mind, I may add, which always and uninterruptedly teemed with this happy discovery, was kept up in due action by every kind of analogous study, nor was it ever allowed to grow feeble by indolence, nor empirical by experience alone. No; Dr. Jenner conjoined study and experience as inseparable companions, being both together, though not apart, productive of sound and rational improvements. And he constantly made additions to his stock of knowledge and general information, as subservient to his grand project, the extension of human life and usefulness. Thus he studied ornithology and geology, with the laws of physiology and pathology; and he made himself acquainted with the classical and French languages; while he occasionally relaxed in playing on the flute, and in taking a leading part in musical entertainments. These various pursuits, besides his medical profession, tended to draw out and keep in harmony his strong intellectual powers in a right direction, and issued in forming a model of perpetual admiration for literati of every class to imitate.

"As a man may be known from his companions, so Dr. Baron's turn of mind may be inferred from his association with Dr. Jenner. We see in the former, as well as in the latter, a mind enlarged and invigorated by daily habits of thought and research. Dr. Baron, having passed through school and college with credit and distinction, made constant progress in general knowledge, as well as in professional attainments; and he showed his multifarious learning in his publications, and particularly in his life of his friend, Dr. Jenner. He may, perhaps, be said to have been a medical philosopher, analysing causes as well as observing results, and applying inventive remedies in difficult cases, where ordinary prescriptions would not be likely to succeed. In practical divinity, too, he was also conversant; and with the aid of a good understanding he made a name worthy of a British physician, which this neighbourhood, and even distant counties, will not soon forget."—(Dr. Claxson.)

## THE SMITH FAMILY.

For several centuries, a family of the name of Smith have been residents in the town and neighbourhood. One of their number was the Lay Impropiator, and other branches, in more modern times, have followed the medical profession and the pursuit of merchandise. The more recent members were located at the "Fleece," at a period when that establishment made little pretensions to greatness. The house, then, was whitewashed within and without. Rudely painted letters on the sun-dried shutter, informed the passer-by that the landlord followed the joint occupations of selling "Newmarch and Gwinnetts Strong Ale," and practising the art of "Whig and Peruke Maker."

The Fleece Hotel, in the High-street, which, when viewed



from Henrietta Street, bears evident marks of having been erected in the olden time, is celebrated on account of its former occupancy by several members of the Smith family. The scene of the exploit which has perpetuated the Smiths' renown, lies in the parish of Deerhurst, but a few miles from Cheltenham, and the axe, the instrument which brought about the event, for many years ornamented the walls of the inn. The house originally formed the commencement of a solitary lane leading to a common waste called the Marshes, and now bounded by the

mansion of the late Lord Dunally. A rudely carved figure of a sheep was suspended over the doorway; the pure stream of the Chelt flowed by, and stepping-stones formed a communication with the neighbourhood. In those days, for ever past, when the Cotswold farmer, on his slow-pack-horse, was the only person who could be called an "arrival," the Fleece was a favourite place of resort. It was as celebrated then as a rendezvous for the rustics who indulged in the marvellous tales of a bygone age, as it now is as an hotel fitted up with all the comforts of civilization. The extraordinary tale which has identified this house with the past, and caused "mine host" to be treasured up in the memory of many an old inhabitant, belongs to the sixteenth century.

In the palmy days of Henry VIII., an enormous sea-serpent was washed on shore at the overflowing of the Severn, and soon became a great grievance around Deerhurst, by poisoning the inhabitants, and destroying the cattle. So serious was the annoyance caused by the monster, that at length the people petitioned the king for relief, and a proclamation was issued, offering a reward that any person who should kill the serpent should enjoy an estate at Walton-hill, then at the disposal of the crown. This was a great stimulus to exertion, and many an inhabitant, both rich and poor, tried their hands at destroying the serpent, but without success. At length, a labouring man, named Smith, undertook the perilous task, and by adopting an ingenious yet simple stratagem, succeeded. He placed a large quantity of milk in a vessel, and having secreted it in a spot where the animal frequented, the serpent gorged it up, and then stretched himself out to sleep in the sun, with his scales ruffled up. Smith thus seeing the common enemy within his power, advanced cautiously, and striking between the scales with his axe, cut off the serpent's head. This narrative is somewhat confirmed by the fact, that the estate has directly succeeded to the present descendant, from the hero of the story, and the axe which achieved the memorable event is now in a good state of preservation, having been handed down from father to son as their heirloom. These events are not to be wondered at when the uncultivated state of the country, four centuries ago, are taken into consideration. Local records bear testimony to the fact, that various parts of Gloucestershire were once so infested

with poisonous and ravenous animals, that a local tax was instituted in order to enable the legislature to exterminate them.

The following account of a visit to the Fleece appeared in the *Cheltenham Chronicle*, of Nov. 23, 1809, in the form of a letter to the Editor:—"Many centuries ago, a Mouster or Fiery Dragon, so infested the neighbourhood of Deerhurst Walton, near Comb Hill, that the farmer and the traveller, passing and re-passing, found it of so dangerous a nature, that all commercial intercourse was daily at an end. In consequence of this Serpentine Suspension of trade, the noble Monarch of the day offered a considerable reward for the destruction of the enemy; but not immediately finding a hero bold enough for the undertaking, at last made it known by Royal Proclamation, that the estate on which it was destroyed would descend to the destroyer, to him and to his heirs for ever. A man at last named Smith undertook the awful task of annihilating this terrific reptile, in which he succeeded by a wise and well-concerted stratagem. Having been informed that Mrs. Smith, widow of the late Mr. Smith, of the Fleece, had in her possession the very identical instrument that put an end to the Dragon, curiosity led me to call on her for a sight of it. It was very carefully wrapped in paper; gold surely never formed a more precious relic."

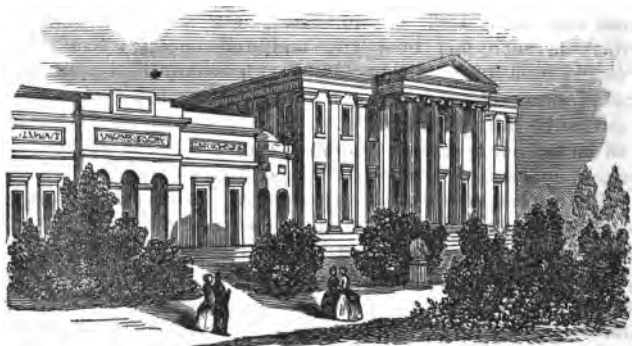
The Smiths were direct descendants of the person who originally achieved this marvellous feat. The late eminent antiquarian, Mr. Counsel, the author of the "History of Gloucester," purchased the axe of Mrs. Smith, at the Fleece, and it was added to that gentleman's celebrated collection of local antiquities. He was of opinion that the instrument, from its workmanship, belonged to the date assigned for the execution of this most remarkable deed.

Rudge says:—"Tradition has handed down a story that an estate at Walton-hill was formerly granted by the Crown to an ancient proprietor as a reward for having killed a vast serpent that infested the country, and the axe with which the beast was killed is still shown (1803). A similar tradition prevails in the county of Durham, where the representative of Sir E. Blckett is obliged to render service to the bishop, on his first coming into the county, by presenting a faulchion, with which the ancestors of the family slew a monstrous reptile; the faulchion thus presented secures the possession of a large estate held by this tenure."

That romantic and beautiful spot, known as Hartley Bottom, which, from its close proximity to the Seven Springs, is so much frequented, has also its serpent associations:—"In the church at Cubberley, are the recumbent figures of a Berkeley and his wife, fourteenth century, 1340. This knight is said to have killed a huge serpent which infested Hartley Bottom."—(Gomonde).

#### THE NORTHWICK FAMILY.

Thirlestaine House, in the Bath-road, near the Proprietary College, will for ever stand distinguished in the annals of local history. It was for years a source of attraction to pictorial connoisseurs, and the paintings and articles of *vertu*, which once



were contained within its walls, enjoyed an European celebrity. In magnitude, as well as in its architectural details, this building may be classed first among the private mansions in the town. It was built and designed by Mr. Scott, a gentleman of great artistic taste, at a cost of £80,000. We give a view of the noble classic pile, which may be justly called a model of Ionic architecture. In the centre is a superb portico, an exact copy of the celebrated Temple on the Ilissus at Athens. The paintings and articles of *vertu*, which formerly were deposited in this noble mansion, occupied the entire life of the late Lord Northwick in their collection, and in value they were the

largest in England, and were freely shown to the visitor. Of their extent and value, we can form a correct idea from the amount which they realized at the respected nobleman's decease.

"The disposal of Lord Northwick's pictures, collected during a life extending for nearly a quarter of a century beyond the average term allotted to man, occupied eighteen successive days, attracted buyers or buyers' agents from all parts of the kingdom, and realized a sum amounting in round numbers to nearly £100,000. So extensive a collection has not been sold for many years. The residents and visitors of Cheltenham knew its value, and will long lament its unfortunate dispersion. The galleries at Thirlestaine House were the pride of Cheltenham. They were to this thriving town what the National Gallery is to the metropolis. They were open all the year round without fee or charge of any kind, and their liberal owner had no greater pleasure than that of knowing that his pictures drew visitors by the hundred. In like manner, at Northwick Park, near Campden, his lordship had built a spacious gallery, which was never closed at any hour of the day to the public, and, being the only gallery for many miles round, was greatly valued by all the neighbourhood. Until within the last year or two Lord Northwick spent much of his time every day among his pictures, and took great delight in pointing out their beauties to any intelligent visitor who might ask permission to see the collection. He had a kind way of getting into conversation with young people, and would explain the difference between one school of painting and another, and show how to discern the great points in a picture, where to look for merits, and how to distinguish between good and bad. It was a pride and pleasure to him to know that either at Cheltenham or Northwick Park his treasures were appreciated by the public. Few men of his rank and retired habits had more public spirit. Not his pictures only, but his whole house and park were at the service of the public. They who have frequented that lovely spot for pic-nics or parties of pleasure know well the hospitality with which its noble owner would send out choice fruit or other refreshment by way of welcome to his often unknown visitors. As for Thirlestaine House, it was, for all practical purposes, a public institution, of which Cheltenham and its visitors reaped the benefit. These splendid collections are now scattered to the

winds. They were brought together in the course a very long life, they cost immense sums of money, and repaid their owner by the gratification they afforded to his own refined taste, and the pleasure they afforded to others. But they were scattered, and it may be a whole generation before another collection at all approaching to it in number, value and public usefulness, shall be formed. And it is this thought that suggests these remarks. We contemplate the dispersion of these pictures with two painful reflections, which, by way of caution or suggestion to other collectors, we wish to impress upon the public. The first is the comparative uselessness in collecting works of art without some provision for their preservation. Here was a most accomplished nobleman devoted to art, especially pictures. He spent enormous sums of money in the collection of choice specimens, and was a liberal patron of young artists of ability and promise. In the course of years he had galleries of which any peer or millionaire might be proud. Now where are they? He has gone, and his pictures are scattered all over the country and the continent. They are no longer a school of art. The galleries of Thirlestaine and Northwick no longer form a school for the student or a refreshment to the amateur. The purpose of a life is dissipated, and a new illustration is given to the preacher's moral, "*Vanitas vanitatis et omnia vanitas.*" It was the belief in Cheltenham, we know not on what authority, that the pictures at Thirlestaine would be left for the benefit of the town, or, at least, that some provision would be made by which they would be preserved there for the use of the public. This turns out to be a mistake. Those works of art have gone to the highest bidder, and their sale is regarded as a great calamity. Undoubtedly, he who collects treasures of art, in the way Lord Northwick did, and gives the public the benefit of them during his life, does a great service in his day and generation; but it is impossible not to remember how much greater a service he renders who not only forms a collection, but provides for its perpetuity. To collect pictures at great cost, and then sell them by auction, is to throw to the winds a large amount of money. The difference between purchase and sale is the price of the owner's enjoyment during his life, and a costly price it often is; whereas a comparatively small addition to this expense would save the labour and thought of years from the auctioneer's

hammer, and what is worse, from uselessness and oblivion. In the next place, see the duty of making a will. These collections are dispersed because they form a portion of the personality of the deceased, and there being no instructions as to their disposal, there is no choice but to sell them and appropriate their proceedings among the heirs-at-law. Next to the mischief of making an unfair will, is that of making none at all. Had Lord Northwick ordered by will the sale of his pictures, however disappointed the world might have been, it would have been felt that he had a right to do as he liked. But dying intestate, the sale follows as a matter of course, and the results of a long life and large fortune devoted to works of art are just nowhere. Many of our readers are men of fortune and collectors of art treasures; we think the fate of Lord Northwick's pictures is a lesson to them. A gallery of pictures left to a family or the public is an offering at the shrine of art; but, sold by auction, and dispersed among innumerable private purchasers, is sheer vanity and labour lost."—*Morning Post*.

This celebrated sale occurred in July, 1859, his Lordship having died in the January previous.

DEATH OF LORD NORTHWICK. — It is with the most unfeigned regret that we this week record the demise of one of the most venerable and venerated members of the British peerage, and one of the most munificent patrons of the fine arts of whom this country could boast. We allude to the Right Hon. Lord Northwick, who departed this life on Thursday morning last, at his lordship's seat near Moreton-in-Marsh, after having attained the patriarchal age of four score years and nine.—*Cheltenham Journal*, January 22, 1859.

This literary and artistic nobleman belonged to a family of high connection. John Rushout, Baron Northwick, of Northwick Park, in this county, Thirlestaine House, Cheltenham, was born on the 16th February, 1770, and succeeded to the peerage on the death of his father, the first Baron Northwick, on the 20th of October, 1800, he being then in his 30th year. Of his lordship's lineage little is known prior to the reign of Charles the First, when John Rushout, Esq., a native of France (lineally descended from Mareschal de Gamaees, grand master of the horse to Louis XI.) settled in England and established himself as a merchant in London. This John Rushout married Anne,



the daughter of Joas Godschalch, and at his decease left only one surviving son, James Rushout, Esq., of Milnst Maylands, in the county of Essex, who was created a baronet on the 17th of July, 1661. Sir James Rushout married Alice, the daughter and heiress of Edward Pitt, Esq., of Harrow-on-the-Hill, and relict of Edward Palmer, Esq., and was succeeded at his decease in 1698, by his eldest surviving son, Sir James, who married Arabella, daughter of Sir Thomas Vernon, and died in 1705. He left only one son, Sir James, who died in 1711 without issue. The title then reverted to the uncle of the deceased, the Right Hon. Sir John Rushout, who at that period filled the high and honourable office of treasurer of the navy. Sir John married the Lady Ann Compton, daughter of George Earl of Northampton, and died in 1775, leaving a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Richard Middleton, Esq., of Chirk Castle, Denbigh, and an only son, who was born on the 12th July, 1738, succeeded to the estates of Sir John Rushout on the death of his father, and was elevated to the peerage on the 26th of October, 1797, by the title of Baron Northwick. His lordship married on the 8th of June, 1766, Rebecca, daughter of Humphrey Bowles, Esq., of Wanstead, Essex, by whom he left issue two sons, namely—*John*, the late peer, born the 16th of February, 1770, and *George*, who took holy orders, born the 30th July, 1772; assumed the surname of Bowles, in addition to and after Rushout, 20th of June, 1817; married, in 1803, Caroline, daughter of John, seventh Earl of Galloway, and died in 1842,—and three daughters, viz., Anne, who died on the 4th of April, 1849; Harriet, who was married on the 8rd of February, 1808, to Sir Charles Cockerell, Bart., and died the 30th October, 1851; and Elizabeth, married first to Sydney Bowles, Esq., on the 24th June, 1797, and secondly to John-Wallis Grieve, Esq., on the second of August, 1819. The late peer was never married, and consequently left no direct heir. His brother George, at his decease, left four children, namely, George, born the 30th of August, 1811, now a captain in the 1st Life Guards; Caroline, who died in 1822; Georgiana and Harriet, who died in 1852. Captain Sir George Rushout (nephew of the deceased peer) is therefore heir to the title and estates, and is the present Lord Northwick. For many years he represented Worcester-shire in Parliament.





*Thurstons House, Cheltenham.*

## THE VERY REV. DR. CLOSE, DEAN OF CARLISLE.

Cheltenham has acquired an almost national celebrity, on account of the many and extensive public educational institutions which it supports. These valuable establishments have all been erected within the past twenty years; and prior to that time, the institutions in connection with the Church of England were limited to congregational efforts. The large increase of new churches is also equally as remarkable. During the past thirty years, eight edifices, mostly of a spacious and expensive character, have been erected and consecrated according to the rites of the Established Church. In the same proportion has the amount for charitable objects in connection with the congregations increased. During a period of ten years, the collections at the Parish Church alone, amounted to £11,709 16s. 8½d. ! To what cause can we justly attribute so satisfactory a state of things? We reply, to the influence and indomitable perseverance of one whose name will for ever be identified with the religious history of the town—FRANCIS CLOSE. This popular and earnest Evangelical preacher was for thirty-three years amongst his parishioners, taking, during that time, the most active part in every local movement of importance. He was encouraged in these efforts by the success which marked his career, and he witnessed the population of his parish double itself in number during his abode. He commenced his local career when there was only one edifice beside the Parish Church, and no public scholastic building. When he was about removing from the scene of his labours it was stated that he had contributed to the erection of public buildings, schools, colleges, &c., no less a sum than £100,000. His earliest efforts were directed to the formation of the Proprietary College in the Bath-road, which now numbers 600 students, so many of whom have obtained University and military honours. He next laboured most intensely to establish that noble Institution, the Church of England Training College, with its branch institutions. Here, again, he was eminently successful, and by its means Cheltenham has sent forth to all parts of the world, well educated teachers of public schools. The ancient Grammar School had fallen into a state of apathy, and was nearly devoid of scholars. His untiring spirit was once more called into action, and with the

aid of a parochial committee, he lived to witness upwards of 300 scholars reaping the advantages of a nearly decayed bequest. During the time he was thus actively employed, he published a great number of sermons and other works which commanded a wide circulation.

The Rev. Francis Close was first connected with Cheltenham in the year 1824. He was then assistant curate at Trinity Church, and at that youthful period of his life gave evidence of that natural oratory in his preaching, for which, in after years, he was so distinguished. The death of the Rev. C. Jervis, the incumbent of the parish, in 1826, caused a vacancy. The living had been purchased by the Rev. J. Simeon, with a view to the spreading of Evangelical sentiments. That benevolent and wealthy man had formed an acquaintance with Mr. Close while at Cambridge, and he presented him with the Cheltenham Incumbency. He was "read in" on November 29th, 1826, and continued to hold the important position until he was elevated to be Dean of Carlisle in 1856. His popularity is evident from the fact that his income, which averaged £1200 per annum, was derived from voluntary offerings and fees—only £40 being the yearly fixed stipend for the minister. In token of respect towards him, the congregation, in 1838, by subscription, erected the spacious residence, "The Grange," and presented it to him absolutely—"to him and his heirs for ever." The Rev. F. Close, by a singular circumstance, was a native of Somersetshire, and as such entered the University of Cambridge. He was born in a village near Bath in 1797, at the residence of Dr. Randolph, where his mother was then on a visit. He had three brothers—Major Close, of the Artillery; Major M. J. Close, of the Fourth Dragoon Guards; and Captain Close, in the Royal Artillery. He was instructed at Merchant Taylors School in London, at the time Dr. Cherry was Head Master. After he had finished his course at this ancient establishment, he was placed under the private tuition of the Rev. Thomas Scott, of Hull, the well known Scripture Commentator. He entered the Cambridge university in 1816, at the age of 19, as a commoner of St. John's College. He graduated B.A. in January, 1820, and in course of the same year was ordained to the curacy of Church Lawford, near Rugby. In thirteen months after, having taken priests orders, he accepted the curacy of

Willesden and Kingsbury, near Harrow, Middlesex. He continued in this curacy until he removed to Cheltenham in 1824. At the time he was first appointed assistant curate at Trinity Church he had just attained his twenty-seventh year, and in two years afterwards took up the degree of M.A. When he left the parish for a higher sphere of usefulness, he was sixty years of age, and had grown grey in the service of truth and righteousness. After his elevation to the Deanery of Carlisle, he was honoured with the degree of D.D. The same active spirit seems to be still in operation among the less opulent parishioners of the north, as was always in motion among the wealthy denizens of the Queen of Watering Places. It is only great minds that can adopt themselves to new circumstances. The same perseverance which created the Educational Institutions which now adorn our town, is now in motion to stem the torrent of drunkenness, and in cultivating the minds of the working men of Carlisle. Mr. Close is the descendant of a family of high antiquity, who stand distinguished for important ecclesiastical positions which they held. It is a significant historical fact that one of his ancestors stands recorded as Bishop of Lichfield in 1452, having previously filled the office of Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, and was Bishop of Carlisle two years before his translation to the See of Lichfield. Dr. Close is the fourth and youngest son of the Rev. Henry Jackson Close, M.A., of St. John's College, Oxford. He was first rector of Hitcham, Suffolk, and afterwards rector of Bentworth, in Hampshire. Mr. Close, like his son the Dean, was a favourite with the government, and it was through his friendship with the celebrated prime minister, William Pitt, that he afterwards obtained his Hampshire Rectory. The Dean of Carlisle is also allied by marriage with an ancient and distinguished family. While pursuing his studies at Cambridge, he became acquainted with the late Rev. Thomas Arden, youngest son of T. Arden, Esq., of Longcroft Hall, in Staffordshire, the head of one of the original Saxon families that have descended down the stream of time. This friendship resulted in the marriage of the Dean of Carlisle with Miss Annie Diana Arden. By this lady the Dean has had a family of eight children, some of whom are allied by marriage to families in Cheltenham. Two sons are Captains in the Bombay army, another is second in command of a regiment in

the Punjab, a younger one holds the rank of Commander in the Royal Navy, and a fourth is a squatter in Victoria, Australia. In a recently published authenticated memoir of this remarkable man, it is said that "at one time he had a strong inclination to go to sea—an early passion which he had learnt sitting on Admiral Cornwallis's knee and listening to his inspiring tales of sea life. The earnest wishes of his mother alone prevented Admiral Cornwallis taking him to sea with him. The taste, however, remained; in his boyhood he signalised himself by his boating propensities on the Thames, and afterwards, when at Hull with his tutor. He always made his journey to London by sea, for the pleasure of the voyage; and on one occasion he was nearly lost in a gale of wind off Yarmouth. This taste for the water followed him to College, where, having obtained an open scholarship at St. John's, and having no taste for mathematics, he devoted his leisure hours chiefly to aquatic adventures. It will scarcely be believed that at this time there was not a six or eight-oared boat on the river. Mr. Close did much to recommence the habit of rowing and sailing among the gowmsmen; and a story is still current among the bargees of how Mr. Close cut the towing line of a train of barges which were coming up the river, and drove them all on shore, because they would not give way and would have capsized his boat. He was, nevertheless, of a very religious turn of mind, and under the influence of his tutor, early imbibed the views of that religious school of which, in subsequent years, he became such an efficient champion. But he ever united great natural spirits and physical force with sincere piety. Nor did his seagoing tastes leave him in after life. Long after he was settled at Cheltenham the sea shore was his point of attraction; and there he trained his boys to the same healthy and innocent tastes. Often has he been seen going down the Channel in an open boat, with only two or three of his own boys for a crew; and the coast between Portsmouth and Plymouth was as familiar to him as the King's highway."

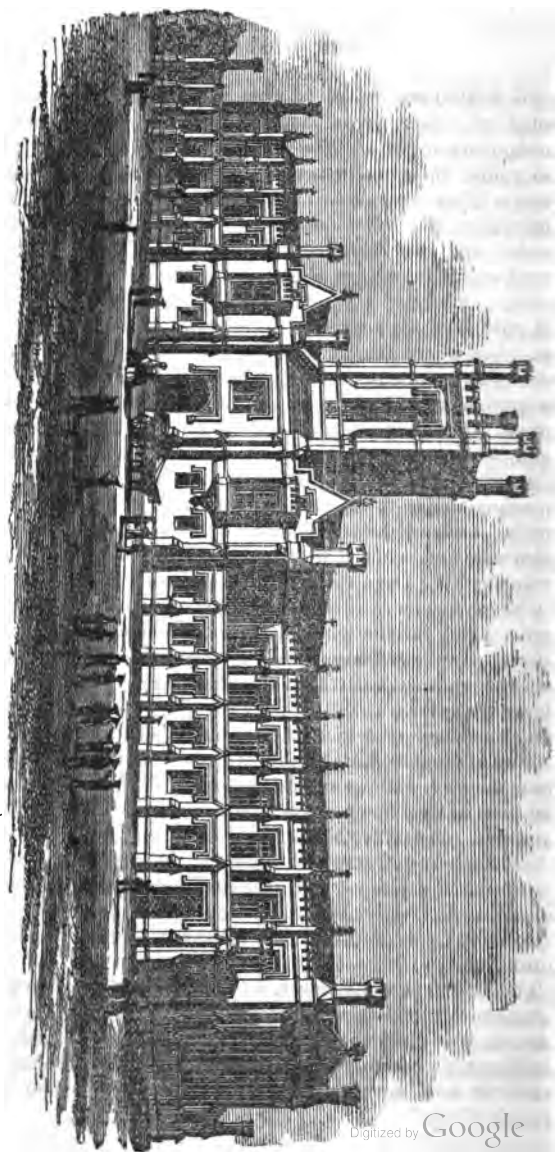
The best proof that can be adduced of the valuable services rendered to Cheltenham by Dr. Close, are the numerous testimonials that his parishioners have from time to time presented to him. We especially allude to the period when he was about to remove to the Deanery of Carlisle. A voluntary collection of

nearly £1000 was raised to present a farewell memorial to the pastor of thirty years standing. This was the act of the parishioners at large. The masters of the Proprietary College also added their testimony, in the shape of a very handsome Ormolu Time Piece bearing a suitable Latin inscription. The students of the College manifested their esteem by a Silver Tea Service, and the Parochial Clergy, by a folio Bible, splendidly bound and mounted, resting upon a massive oak desk elaborately carved. All these testimonials were presented on one occasion and with suitable addresses. This was on December 3, 1856. The place where the various Deputations assembled was most judiciously selected—it was “The Grange”—a building which the parishioners had reared and presented as a previous Testimonial. The addresses on that occasion delivered, and the replies given, were worthy of the event. They contained expressions of gratitude and esteem that were naturally to be expected from an acquaintance of so long standing. The address from the general body of Parishioners mostly concerns us, as local historians, and from it we give an extract which will demonstrate that the Dean of Carlisle deserves a niche in our History of Cheltenham:—“We desire further to record our acknowledgments to you for the temporal benefits which, either directly or indirectly, you have been mainly instrumental in conferring upon the town and neighbourhood of Cheltenham. Of these benefits, a large proportion is due to your exertions in the cause of education, exertions of which substantial evidences are seen in the tasteful and appropriate buildings erected under your own immediate auspices, and more indirectly in the ever expanding area occupied by commodious dwelling houses. And the poorest and humblest can testify that, while you have administered to ourselves, both in sickness and in health, the purest consolations of the everlasting Gospel, you have also endeavoured to impart to the children of the poor, the inestimable advantages of education enjoyed by those of their richer brethren. For this we heartily thank you.”

The *Cheltenham Examiner*, of Oct. 22, 1856, in noticing his elevation to the Deanery, remarks:—“We will venture to say, if a search was made through our thickly populated land, no man could put his hand upon a parochial clergyman who has worked harder or more earnestly, for the last thirty years, than the Rev. Francis Close.”



OHELTENHAM PROPRIETARY COLLEGE.



"If you look for his monument, look around,"—is the inscription on the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren, who lies buried in the centre of St. Paul's Cathedral, which his genius reared. Adopting the suggestion, we will "look around," and trace out the most notable of the local Educational Institutions which Mr. Close was so instrumental in founding.

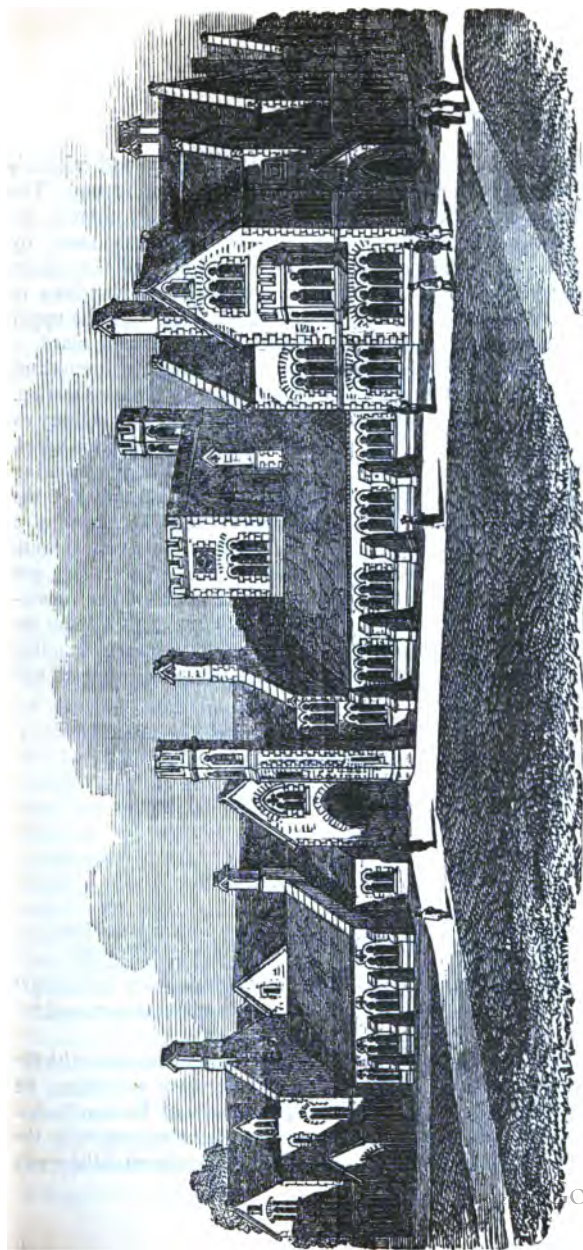
### THE PROPRIETARY COLLEGE

which is an ornament to the town in an architectural point of view, numbers upwards of six hundred pupils, and from its very first formation has met with the most marked success. The amount of honours won at the University and other examinations by the students of this college are, perhaps, without a parallel in any similar establishment in England. The success which has attended this college has been the chief cause of the present prosperity of the town, as is evidenced by the great increase in the population, brought to light by the census returns in 1861. This beautiful Gothic structure was first opened for the reception of Scholars on June 22nd, 1843. It was built from designs by Mr. J. Wilson, of Bath. Its fine front represents the Tudor style, prevalent in England during the fifteenth century. The beautiful Gothic Chapel attached contains marble tablets and stained glass windows in memory of former students of the College who have fallen in the Crimea and in India. Many of the side windows are of stained glass, one having been presented by the town. This handsome edifice will seat 300 persons, and its erection cost £6000. The college was built with capital raised by shares of £20 each, but so prosperous has been its career, that they are now worth £100.

### THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND NORMAL COLLEGE.

The establishment of a Normal College in the town was a work at which Dr. Close, in conjunction with others, laboured most incessantly. Success attended their praiseworthy efforts, and our sketch represents a building of vast extent, located on six acres of ground. The foundation stone was laid May 19, 1849, by Lord Ashley. It bore the following inscription, which details the aim and object of the founders:—"This stone was

laid by the Right Hon. Lord Ashley, M.P., President of the Church of England Training Institution, at Cheltenham, for the purpose of instructing persons as masters for any part of the United Kingdom, upon Scriptural, Evangelical, and Protestant principles, in accordance with the Liturgy and Articles of the Established Church, April 19, 1849. S. W. Daukes, architect. Thomas Haines, builder." The edifice is in the Domestic Early Pointed style. The front, facing the road leading to St. Paul's Church, displays a central tower of considerable height. The entire structure is formed of rubble masonry, and presents a novel appearance. The ground on which the building stands was presented for the object to which it has been devoted by the late Miss Jane Cook. With a view to render the Institution more efficient, there has been erected on the unoccupied ground, Model and Practising Schools for children. The building is quadrangular in form, and surrounded by a wall, capped with an ornamental coping. The portion in front is embattled, and the enclosures filled with ornamental iron work. The principal gateway is in the centre, and there are private ones for the Principal and Vice-Principal at each end. The building stands some distance back from the public road; the opening being filled with a lawn and shrubs. The entrance is through a ground archway, which leads into a handsome quadrangle. A corridor runs round the whole of the building, giving access to all parts, but communication can be shut off at certain points. On the east side of the entrance, is an octagon turret, open at the top, containing a bell and a staircase to the porter's bedroom. On the same side are the board-room, class-room, &c.; all of them have open roofs with framed principals, the leads of which rest on carved corbels, stained a middle tint, and varnished. At the extreme end is the Principal's house; it has a small court into which the servant's offices look; the offices of the servants to the establishment are also on this side, and the Training Master's house; at the North East angle, is the dining hall. In the centre of the North side is the principal staircase, giving access to the dormitories; the whole of this side is occupied by class-rooms, and at the North East angle, corresponding with the dining-room, is the day room. On the West side is the theatre and a class room, and at the South West angle is the Vice-Principal's house, complete in itself;



CHELTENHAM NORMAL COLLEGE.

next to this, on the North side, are the library and visitor's room, both of which have open roofs like the board-room. The dormitories extend round the North and West side; there is one long room, divided into separate rooms for each man, by partitions. A passage passes down the centre of the whole, and is ventilated by towers fixed in the dormitory windows in the roof, which can be opened or shut at pleasure. In the upper part of the central tower, on the North side is the sick ward:

The Principal, the Rev. C. H. Bromby, M.A., the Incumbent of St. Paul's, is the author of many eminent works on education.

Many are the associations which crowd upon the memory as we pass by the educational and benevolent institutions which were once under the care of Francis Close. But the building of all others, with which his name is so closely identified, is the ever venerable Parish Church. For upwards of a quarter of a century were his thrilling appeals in behalf of Evangelical truth uttered within the time-hallowed walls of this edifice. He was the twenty-third successive Divine who had filled the Incumbency since the Established Church had been remodelled, after the chaotic period of the Civil Wars. This will be apparent from the history of the Parish Church, which the following Chapter will fully detail.

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## CHAP. X.

### The Parish Church.

"'Twas the sweet and blessed Sabbath, God's own holy hallowed hour,  
And the bells were softly chiming, in Saint Mary's time worn tower.  
Hush'd was the voice of labour, no harsh sounds disturbed the air,  
And the rows of stately lime trees bowed their heads as if in prayer!"

BYRNE'S "Cheltenham Church."

THE ecclesiastical history of Cheltenham commences with the ninth century. For six hundred years following, its religious temple was dedicated to the services of Roman Catholicism; and its manor and hundred were successively the property of the once rich and extensive Monastic establishments

of Cirencester, Lanthony, Fescamp, and Sion. The order of architecture, displayed both in the interior and exterior of our truly venerable Parish Church, demonstrates that it was erected centuries prior to the abolition of the Papal power in this country; and its large dimensions and general structure indicate that Cheltenham must have been a very important ecclesiastical station at an early period. History has, however, placed this interesting fact beyond doubt. From the first conversion of the Saxons to Christianity, down to the present day, the town has been celebrated for its religious institutions. The high position which Cheltenham occupied in the early monastic period is evident from the fact that Horton, the renowned Sacrist, who, in the fourteenth century, commenced the beautiful cloisters, who rebuilt the high altar, aisle, and other parts of Gloucester Cathedral, received his ordination at the Parish Church. "He received the benediction at Cheltenham from the Bishop of Hereford, by leave of the Bishop of Worcester."—(Rudder).

The present Parish Church must, indeed, have been a most important building before the introduction of the Protestant faith. The various religious edifices in the locality were subordinate to it for centuries, and even the now large churches of Charlton and Leckhampton were "made subject to the mother Church at Cheltenham, by William, Bishop of Hereford, in 1190." Besides the chantries, two chapels were also connected—one at Arle and the other at Hatherley; and at the time the manor belonged to the nuns of Sion, the recently restored Norman chapel at Southam was under the same jurisdiction. The chapel at Hatherley was situated on the estate at present rented by Mr. Pickernell, and tomb stones, cross steps, and other vestiges of the ancient structure have been discovered there. After the Reformation, Queen Elizabeth granted an annuity of twelve shillings, annually, to be paid by the owner of the property for the time being, to Richard Pates and his heirs, to enable him to support the Cheltenham Alms Houses, in Albion Street. From an ancient lease of Hatherley Farm (in the author's possession), it appears that this incident is introduced and made legally binding, and the payment is continued to the present day. The chapel at Arle was, no doubt, abolished at the establishment of the Reformation. Budge, in 1803, says:—"The date of 1250, found on a beam, belonged to a chapel here."

Hatherley Chapel was, in after years, created a chapelry of Badgworth, and continued so until its demolition. The chapel at Southam was annexed to the Cleeve district.

The church at Cheltenham yet retains many vestiges of its ancient architecture.

The north side of the building is, unquestionably, the oldest portion now standing. The north porch retains, unaltered, its original characteristics, and was probably at one time the only means of entrance. The roof in the interior displays the ball flower decoration—a style prevalent in the reigns of Edward II. and Edward III.—five centuries since. This beautiful order of architecture was finely developed in this county, and all the best authorities cite as examples the windows of Gloucester Cathedral and Badgworth Church, and the North porch at Cheltenham.—(Knight).

“The porch was a very ancient appendage to the church ; and although it has been usually considered as a mere ornament, yet it had, in ancient times, its special uses. In that part of the will of Henry VI., relative to the foundation of Eton College, are these words :—‘ Item, in the south side of the body of the church, a fair large door with a porch, and the same for christening of children and weddings.’ ”—(Nichols). Another peculiarity in the North porch is the fact of its having been chambered. With the exception of Cleeve Church, we believe it is the only instance to be found in the county of a chamber over the porch. This, and the one at Cleeve, are almost unique specimens of the residence of a recluse of some importance, as is evident from a separate doorway being formed for his use.

The edifice, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is 117 feet in length, 65 feet in breadth, and is capable of seating upwards of a thousand persons. Tradition has assigned the period of its erection to the eleventh century. The foundations and main walls may probably belong to that early era, but the windows have been introduced at later intervals—from the twelfth to the fifteenth century. The west window was erected in 1703, the former one having been struck with lightning. The most admired portion of the sacred pile is the marygold, or circular window, in the Early Gothic style, and very similar to the one in York Cathedral. Its general design represents the expanded leaves of a flower. It is divided into 33 compartments, and its

diameter is 15, and its circumference 45 feet. There are inhabitants now surviving who can remember when the "rood loft" occupied its ancient position, between the nave and the chancel;

"Bright burned the waxen taper, upward curled  
The clouds of incense towards the mimic cross,  
Loud swelled the solemn anthem, as unfurl'd  
The mystic signs became."

Directly beneath the spire, the rood loft was displayed on a gallery platform. It acquired its name from the great crucifix which was erected upon it, with its front towards the congregation. Beside the rood, or crucifix, it was also customary to introduce figures of saints. The bell-ropes passed through this platform, and the ringers performed their task upon it until the year 1813, when the Rev. C. Jarvis suggested the formation of the present belfry. The ancient loft was then removed, the royal arms put up it in its stead, and the massive Gothic arches which support the tower, left unexposed and unencumbered, as at present. On August 5th, 1813, at a vestry meeting convened for the purpose, it was decided "to remove the belfry from the body of the church."

The accompanying view of the interior represents this precise spot (which, in fact, forms the arches that support the tower and spire), and also the truly beautiful circular window before alluded to.

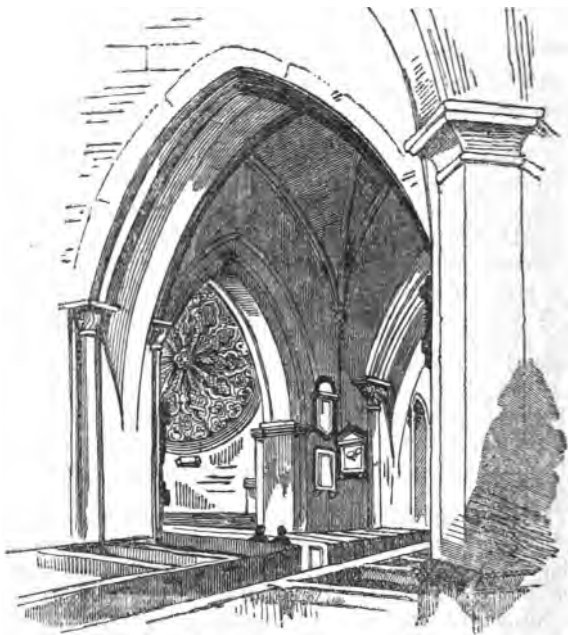
The many alterations which have been made have tended to destroy many vestiges of antiquity within the memory of the living. The remains of a beautiful Sedilia and canopied Piscina of the Early Gothic era, existed until the South Porch was introduced into its present position. A large and ancient baptismal font, belonging to the same period of architecture also located near the same place, was removed to the Sun Inn, in the High Street, where it formed for many years a watering trough!

A similar fate befell the oldest font in the county, which originally stood in the Saxon Church at Deerhurst, and the stone coffins, in which were interred the Abbots of Winchcomb! The carved figures, which graced for so many years the Communion in our Parish Church, found a local habitation in a builder's yard!

The Early English style, prevalent from 1190 to 1245, is



developed in the arch of the North aisle, connecting it with the transept. The small circular window in the gallery of the North transept belongs to the Geometrical era and the time of its introduction into the main wall could not have been later



than the thirteenth century. The decorated style is finely illustrated in the South transept, and the windows, especially, may be referred to the period when it was in general use, between the years 1215 and 1360. The greater part of the present edifice was erected at the time these orders of architecture were in their highest state of development. This was at the time when monastic institutions were in the height of their prosperity, as is evidenced by the local Abbots of the De Cheltenham family that were once connected with the edifice, and some of whom represented Cheltenham in Parliament.

A Porch formerly existed within the East door, which was removed in order to create more pews. It was in the Early Gothic style, and is in the possession of Mr. J. Alder, of this town.

The crucifix-form of the building proves that it has undergone no external alteration since the rites of the Roman Church were practised within its walls; its interior must, therefore, have had an imposing appearance

"When the proud Papal band  
Came summon'd by the sacred vesper chime,  
To pay their gorgeous worship at the shrine  
Of the pure Virgin and her Son divine."

A convincing proof of the ancient importance of the Parish Church, as a Monastic edifice, is derived from the fact that it formerly contained two large and well-endowed chantries. The first of the devotional altars was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was so well endowed that a separate priest and parsonage house were connected with it. The second chantry was dedicated to St. Catherine, and its founder also bequeathed property for its regular maintenance. Of the value of these endowments we may form some idea, from the fact that in the reign of Henry VII., according to Pope Nicholas, they were worth 24s. annually—a large sum for that period: and the property now realizes twenty times as many pounds, from the circumstance of it being land on which some of the most valuable houses of the town are built. This now forms a portion of the estate which was bequeathed by Richard Pate for the support of the Free Grammar School, in the High Street. To the original grant of Mr. Pate, dated 1578, is appended—"A true and perfect rentroll" of all the estate, and the annual value of each separate portion, in the year 1586. In that document the chantries are thus entered:—"Cheltenham one tenement and close, payable at the feasts of the Annunciation of our blessed Lady the Virgin Mary, and St. Michael, the Archangel, some time belonging to the chantry of the blessed Virgin Mary, in the Parish Church, at Cheltenham, 13s. 4d. For the Mansion-house, or Priest's-chamber, payable in like manner, 12s. One tenement, with the appurtenances, payable in like manner, sometime belonging to the late chantry of Saint Catherine, in the same Parish Church of Cheltenham, 12s.

One parcel of land sometime belonging to the chantry of the Virgin Mary aforesaid, 16s. 8d. One parcel of ground, sometime belonging to the chantry of the blessed Virgin Mary, given for the finding of holy bread, in the same Parish Church, £2 13s. 4d., of which Thomas Ball was the last Incumbent.” —(Atkyns). In common with all the property left by Catholics, that which has now been described, reverted to the crown at the Reformation. It was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Mr. Pates for the purpose of establishing a Free School, and the original building yet exists, displaying on its frontage the ancient inscription—“Schola Grammatica.” It may also be adduced in illustration of the subject, that the Principal of the edifice at this era became one of the most distinguished men of his day. This was a townsman, named Richard De Cheltenham. He died in 1509, and the rich tracery displayed on his tomb at Tewkesbury, of which Abbey he was Abbot, proves the exalted rank which he sustained. The Parish Church continued a monastic edifice until the general dissolution of Henry VIII., and the remains of the chantries were visible until within the past half-century.

These chantries, as indicated by the closed mortuary doorway, seem to have been located near the North Porch, and the Priest’s house was, probably, without the churchyard in the High Street, on the site of the old market, where Norman ecclesiastical remains have been found. These chantries were in full use at the latter period when the Romanish faith was about to be non-legalised by the act of Henry VIII.

“These chantries were choirs, in miniature; and had their raised altars, tapers, crucifixes, and all the utensils of Catholic worship, only on a smaller scale than in the platform of the church. These endowments were very considerable; varying according to the number of masses for the dead to be said in them by the appointment of their founders; which, commonly, had respect to their ancestors and descendants, as well as to the immediate benefit of their own souls.”—(Knight).

The power which destroyed, or rather suppressed, the ancient ecclesiastical institutions of our land, and our own parish church among the number, must have been almost miraculous. It was brought about by a series of events unparalled in their nature and magnitude. The love of ambition and wealth was no doubt the



*St. Paul's Church, Cheltenham.*



first thing which promoted the crusade against monastic property ; but this movemnt, although unjust in itself, by robbing the Catholics of their property, yet, fortunately, brought about the right of private judgment and religious liberty ; and on the ruins of papal temples, it raised the standard of the illustrious Chillingworth—“ *That the Bible, and the Bible only, is the Religion of Protestants.*”

About midway between the North door and the large circular window are the remains of two altar tombs ; and from the coffins that have been previously found, it is evident that four of these mementoes of conventual life must have once existed. The form of these ancient relics was fully developed in 1860, when the whole of the flooring was dug out and the vaults concreted over by virtue of a Sanitary order issued from the Privy Council. These tombs are of high antiquity, and one of them yet retains its original position. The canopied arches are still entire, which were raised over them, and from the style of architecture which they display, evidently belong to the reign of Edward II. The existence of these tombs (which contained the Abbots belonging to the Monastery) testifies to the former extent and importance of the sacred building. Similar tombs are only to be found in cathedrals or large edifices, such as Tewkesbury Abbey Church. These coffins were all found without lids. This is no uncommon occurrence, for the Abbots were generally buried in full canonicals, and the tombs were opened and plundered for the sake of the gold and silver ornaments which they contained. These altar tombs were enriched by presents from devotees. When Henry VIII. seized the one erected to Becket, besides works of art, and precious stones, he found the sum of £954, which had been presented by way of ‘offering’ for one year. This amount is large, when it is remembered that Counsel has proved, from authentic sources, that at that period (the Reformation), in this county, it cost “only £1 6s. 8d. for the vicar’s diet for the whole year, so that £5 a-year, then, would maintain anybody in honour and credit.” The altar tomb of Edward II., in Gloucester Cathedral, received sufficient contributions to rebuild and beautify many parts of the edifice, besides two ships of gold, and a cross of gold, containing a ruby.

The altar tomb to Becket is still in Trinity Chapel, Cirencester,

and the promises held out to devotees in return for their offerings are yet preserved. The work of destruction was effected in two epochs in history—after the Reformation and at the time of the Civil Wars—when the Puritan soldier defaced everything that favoured of the Ecclesiastical that came in his way. The altar tombs at Tewkesbury were erected at the same time, which is to be expected when we consider that one of our townsmen was elected to be the Abbot of the Tewkesbury Convent. With two exceptions, the tombs at Tewkesbury have been opened and their contents removed. One of those which remained entire was examined by Mr. Lysons, and as its dimensions and architectural details so correspond to those in our own church, we can form an idea of what they once were. Mr. Lysons states that, when the lid of the stone coffin was first taken off, the body appeared surprisingly perfect, considering that it had lain there for nearly six hundred years; the folds of the drapery were then very distinct; but when exposed to the air, the whole soon crumbled away, and left little more than a skeleton. The boots, however, still retained their form, with a certain degree of elasticity, and hung in large folds about the legs. On his right hand lay a plain crosier of wood, neatly turned, the top of which was gilded, having a cross cut in it; the handle was five feet eleven inches in length, and remarkably light; and on his left side was the fragment of a chalice.

“In the course of the excavations, two ancient stone coffins have been discovered in the South aisle, and as they were free from human remains they have been removed into the enclosed portion of the churchyard, where they continue open to inspection. These coffins, which are upwards of six feet in length and very massive, are formed of the weather stone still found in the neighbourhood. They are evidently of ancient date, probably about the beginning of the 13th century. They are supposed to have been the coffins of Abbots buried in the Church under the Catholic *regime*. Another stone coffin has been found in the north aisle of the building, but as it is firmly imbedded in the main wall, and offers no obstruction to the sanitary works now in progress, its removal has not been considered necessary.”—*Cheltenham Examiner*, May 30, 1860.”

We have no doubt that the coffins thus recorded belonged to local Abbots. Prinns, in his MS account of Cirencester Abbey,

refers to Richard de Cheltenham, Abbot of Cheltenham, who died in the reign of Edward IV., and other authorities quote the same title as late as the reign of Henry VII.

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### “DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT COFFINS AT CHELTENHAM.

In conformity with the order issued by the Privy Council, the Churchwardens are causing to be removed all the pews and monumental stones within the walls of the Parish Church. In taking up the floor in the South isle and in removing the wainscot forming the end of a pew in the North aisle, three stone coffins were found of evident antiquity. These relics doubtless belong to the monastic era. They are of surprising thickness and of great weight. Hewn out of a solid block of native oolitic free stone with a tre-foil head piece and internal central gutters, terminating with an orifice, they are all of the same architectural design, and measure, in length, six feet three inches. Two were found in the South isle, in parallel lines and close to the surface. One was entirely empty, and the other partly filled with bones of different sizes—thus indicating that they had been previously opened and the original deposit removed. No covering or lid was found. The coffin in the North aisle is firmly embedded in the wall of the sacred edifice, and is surmounted with a canopied arch. On reference to the work of Gough on “Sepulchral Monuments,” it will be seen that these remains are ascribed to the 13th century. This date is confirmed by the order of architecture which surmounts the mural coffin in the North aisle—being Early Gothic, with ball flower decorations. The former existence of Altar Tombs within this edifice in the palmy days of Catholicism, is referred to in Goding’s “History of Cheltenham,” where a list of endowments for the support of the same is recorded. It is not, therefore, improbable that what have been exhumed during the past week belong to this class, which was generally erected to the memory of the Abbot or some person of ecclesiastical note. Two of the coffins have been removed to the churchyard, where they may be inspected by the public at large. The other still retains its



original position as an Altar Tomb, attached to the main walls. The entire of the monumental stones forming the flooring have been placed in the outer yard prior to the concreting over of the vaults."—(*Cheltenham Mercury*, May, 1860).

Similar discoveries have also been made at Gloucester, and the coffins found are of precisely the same style of architecture as those now described. In Gloucester Cathedral, three of these old relics of the past are preserved, which were found upon removing the old screen. "When these ancient parts were being removed, three stone coffins were found near the surface, containing the remains of three Abbots, with part of the gloves and robes remaining. Nearer to the cloister door, another stone coffin was found, containing a sword, a pewter chalice, a staff, and two skulls."—(Counsel). On reference to Clarke's Architectural work on Gloucester, it will be seen that in an engraving of the chancel in St. Mary de Lode's, is included an altar tomb of exactly the same age and design as those which occur in our own Parish Church, and located like them, beneath a window. The discovery of lids at different times of the same age as these coffins, further proves how they have been disturbed in past times.

"In the late improvement in the churchyard of Cheltenham, a large solid stone was found of the same shape as the coffins, or lids of coffins, now to be seen in Tintern Abbey—tapered from end to end; there was no inscription remaining, but an Abbots staff or crook running its whole length, and elaborately carved round the edges. It has been preserved, and now lies on the left of the ancient eastern pathway."—(Graves of our Fathers, 1858).

The very ancient custom of using branches of the Box tree in interments was also practised in this church. The box was regarded as emblematical of eternity by the Romans, and as such, at the present day, is used in various forms in the Holy Land, Smyrna, and Normandy. The poet Wordsworth shows that the box is still used at funerals in the North. In one of his beautiful poems occurs the following passage and foot note:—

'The basin of Box wood just six months before,  
Had stood on the table at Timothy's door,  
A coffin through Timothy's threshold had past,  
One child did it bear, and that child the last.'

"In several parts of the north of England, when a funeral takes place, a bason full of sprigs of Boxwood is placed at the door of the house from which the coffin is taken up, and each person who attends the funeral takes a sprig of this boxwood and throws it into the grave of the deceased."—(Wordsworth). In the year 1857, two vaults, near the Clerk's pew, in the middle aisle, were opened, and nine skeletons discovered without any vestige of coffins. Under the head of one was a board fourteen inches square, covered with a thick matting of the branches of the box tree, preserving a perfect moisture, and adhering to a skull, which had all the flesh preserved upon it as if it had been embalmed. The rest of the skeletons, which were not interred in boxwood, were perfectly dry, and appeared of ancient date. In Normandy, box was formerly used as a bedding for coffins; the corpse being laid on a bed of sprigs of the box tree.

The classic carved altar piece and the communion table have only occupied their present position during the past half century. They were removed from Gloucester Cathedral, in 1807, and at their erection, the remains of a stone altar of high antiquity were pulled down, and a wall painting was discovered. The carved altar piece is in the Elizabethan style, and until the past few years, was surmounted with figures and devices, life size, which were removed in order to give effect to the chancel widows. According to a minute in a book in the Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral, it was carved by Michael Bysack in 1704, and "that £20, free gift, was granted to him for extraordinary work to the altar." As a work of art it is admirable, but it is not in character with the Early Gothic edifice which contains it, and it has been proposed to remove it and to supply its place with a stained glass window. To the right of the present communion table is preserved the original Piscina, probably the largest and most perfect of its kind in England. This relic of the past, which is doubtless six centuries old, is in the Decorative Gothic and Canopied form. Its base is basin form, and perforated with holes. It held the consecrated water, with which the numerous articles used in administering the sacraments were continually purified. The water in which the priest's hands had been washed, that in which the chalice had been rinsed, and the consecrated host which time or accident had rendered impure, were also discharged through the same channel.

Rudge, the county historian, observes—"The Piscina in the chancel is very handsomely finished. It was used for holding or draining the holy water; in some churches it was very plain, but in others, as in Cheltenham, highly ornamented." We give an illustration of this ancient relict of sacerdotal custom.



The spiral tower which rises from the centre of the noble pile, is a prominent object for miles round the town. It is 167 feet in height, and reposes upon a square basement, on the west side of which is inscribed—"Anno 1622: J. W.," which probably refers to some extensive renovation at that date. The architectural details of the spire are very beautiful, and justify us in assigning the period of its erection to the thirteenth century—about 1250. It was anciently ornamented with the Royal Arms, as appears from the following entry in the Vestry Book:—"Memorandum, that in this year, 1695, was the steeple of Cheltenham repaired from the upper hole to the top, by James Hill, of Cheltenham, stone mason, and in the same year was the King's Arms taken down and set on the west side of the said steeple or tower." The same authority also records that on June 7, 1810, a contract was signed with Messrs. Nash and Morgan, of London, "for taking down and rebuilding 30 feet of the steeple of St. Mary's Church, Cheltenham."

In the tower is a musical peal of ten bells. Eight of these bells were erected on April 26, 1824, at the expense of the parish, and the other two were added by contributions from the ringers. On the Tenor bell, these lines are engraved:—

"I in prayer do combine;  
The dead must hear  
A greater sound than mine."

On a tablet in the church is recorded that "Lodowick Packer, gent., gave in 1603, the third bell to this parish." From various entries in the Vestry Book, it appears that the first bells were cast by the same firm as executed those at present in use, the celebrated Rudhalls, of Gloucester. At this company's

foundry, all the old bells were recast in 1697, and made into eight. On the original Treble bell was inscribed :—

“Abraham Rudhall cast all we,  
One thousand six hundred and twenty-three.”

These bells continued in use until within the past twenty-eight years, when, by a singular coincidence, after a lapse of two centuries, they were finally melted down at the original establishment. In 1821, the Tenor bell was cracked during the ringing for Sunday morning service. On it was the verse annexed :—

“I, to church the living call,  
And to the grave do summon all.”

In the tower is preserved a Sanctus bell of ancient form, called “the Saints’ bell.” It weighs about a hundred weight, and until recently, was used as a fire bell. A fire engine and buckets for holding water were formerly kept in the entrance to the north porch, and when the “little fire bell,” as it was called, was rung, the inhabitants at once repaired to the church. On a tablet facing the marygold-window, it is recorded that “The Right Hon. Lord Gage gave a fire engine for the use of this town. In the year 1721, Sir John Dutton, Bart., gave a fire engine for the use of this town.”

The following is the weight of the bells as recorded in the belfry :—1st—6cwt. 0qrs. 19lbs. ; 2nd—5cwt. 2qrs. 0lbs. ; 3rd. 6cwt. 0qrs. 12lbs. ; 4th—6cwt. 2qrs. 2lbs. ; 5th—7cwt. 0qrs. 3lbs. ; 6th—8cwt. 1qr. 3lbs. ; 7th—9cwt. 2qrs. 26lbs. ; 8th—12cwt. 0qrs. 15lbs. ; 9th—15cwt. 0qrs. 25lbs. ; 10th—22cwt. 2qrs. 26lbs.

A society of ringers have been for some years formed, and regularly ring peals on Thursday evenings, as also on special occasions. Since the completion of the new set of bells, this society has performed upon them peals of a remarkable character—at one time amounting to 6000 changes.

“St. Mary’s bells are chiming—  
Chiming with solemn air—  
The fleeting minutes timing  
To the hour of morning prayer.  
And as from tower and steeple  
The welcome music pours ;  
See ! crowds of Christian people  
Throng through the opened doors.”

The present appearance of the interior, with all its modern innovations, can convey but a faint idea of what the original edifice was when first completed by the Early English architect. What a beautiful edifice it must have been, with its variety of altars, and altar tombs, and chantries, and chapels, all amply endowed, from one or the other of which Matins, or Vespers, or praise, were continually ascending to the Eternal. Well might the many Abbots of Cheltenham, who adorn the historic page, in this hallowed temple, surrounded with such scenes, nurse the flame that kindled their devotion, and which led them to prefer the cloister to the tumult and strife of the outer world. Well might the recluse select his chambered room in the North Porch, so near the devotional altar tombs, as fitting abode for the man of a studious and retiring disposition, there to seek that quiet and calm which the world with all its vanities can never confer. Well might the pilgrim, devotee, and resident worshipper, have been awe struck, as their eyes rested upon the numerous altars with their attendant priests, the illuminated picture with its mystical device which surmounted the high altar, the rood loft which exalted the sacred emblem of the cross before it at the elevation of the host. Well might they have been lost in feelings of wonder, devotion, and humility.

In the Vestry Book it is said—"Memorandum, that in the year 1699, the chimes in the Parish Church was then erected, and the first tune set upon them was the 113th Psalm." In after years the chimes were still further improved, and played in addition, the Morning and Evening hymns, and the 104th Psalm. They continued to play regularly, and were repaired by the churchwardens up to 1821. The original "Cheltenham Guide," published in 1781, mentions that the Parish Church "is noted for a musical peal of eight bells, and a tuneable set of chimes, which play every three hours." The chimes still exist in the church tower, and their restoration would be a most desirable work. We trust that the attention of the parochial authorities will be directed to the subject, and that the ears of the present inhabitants will be once more enlivened with the sound of the old church chimes.

The organ at present in use, which has recently been enlarged, was erected by voluntary contribution in 1810. It was first opened by a performance of Sacred music, in May, 1811. We

put on record the original subscribers to the organ, as a proof of the benevolent spirit then existing among the attendants of the sacred edifice. The list is taken from the advertisements acknowledging the contributions, which appeared in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of May 24, 1810 :—

Rev. Mr. Foulkes ... ..	5	5	0	Mr. Minster ... ..	2	2	0
Rev. Mr. Hughes ... ..	10	0	0	Mr. J. Wildey ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. F. Wells ... ..	10	0	0	Mr. J. Townsend ... ..	1	1	0
Sir R. Herries ... ..	10	0	0	Mr. J. Jones ... ..	1	1	0
Colonel Riddell ... ..	10	0	0	Mr. J. Nicholson ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Newell ... ..	5	0	0	Mr. Ruff ... ..	2	2	0
Mr. Pruen ... ..	5	5	0	Mr. J. Bishop, Jun. ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. H. Thompson ... ..	5	5	0	Mr. W. Mayers ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Ab Byrob ... ..	5	5	0	Mr. G. Davis ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. T. Gwinnett ... ..	10	0	0	Mr. R. White ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Gardner ... ..	10	0	0	Mr. W. Bastin ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. G. Jones ... ..	3	0	0	Mr. E. Mathews ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Bicknam ... ..	10	0	0	Mr. W. Selden ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Stiles ... ..	1	0	0	A. and B. Rogers ... ..	2	2	0
Mr. T. Smith ... ..	2	2	0	Mr. R. Foster ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Newman ... ..	3	3	0	Mr. Middleton ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Kidman ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. S. Hulbert ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Langbridge ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Merrifield ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. C. Newmarch ... ..	10	0	0	Mr. W. Haynes ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Lesger ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Bishop, Sen. ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. H. Fowler ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Hinks ... ..	2	2	0
Mr. T. Jones ... ..	5	5	0	Mr. Hanney ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. W. Stone ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. B. Jones ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Liffolly ... ..	1	1	0	Major Hall ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. E. Smith ... ..	2	2	0	Mrs. Humphris ... ..	2	2	0
Mr. W. Hands ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Roberts ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. M. Yearsley ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Freeman ... ..	1	1	0
Mrs. Lighton ... ..	5	5	0	Mr. Forty ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Cox ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Jordan ... ..	2	2	0
Mr. Lawrence ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. J. Higgs ... ..	5	5	0
Mr. Lambert ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. S. Thornton ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. B. Buckle ... ..	2	2	0	Mr. Capstack ... ..	2	2	0
Mr. Barrett ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Harris ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Clutterbuck ... ..	2	2	0	Mr. Saunders ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. W. Mecey ... ..	1	1	0	Mrs. Miller ... ..	2	2	0
Mrs. Hayden ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Sheldon, Hotel ... ..	1	1	0
Mrs. Arkell ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Cox ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. J. Arkell ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Moody ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. F. Fuger ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Fricker ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Brawn ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Trinder ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Turk ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. T. Billings ... ..	10	0	0
Hon. Miss Monson ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. B. Humphries ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. B. Pruen ... ..	5	5	0	Mr. M. Hale ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. J. Ballenger ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Kelley ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. B. Chapman ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Bartlett ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. G. Wood ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Jennings ... ..	1	1	0

Mr. Smith, Bank ... ..	5	5	0	Mr. R. Paul ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Fricker... ..	2	2	0	Mr. R. Hughes ... ..	5	5	0
Mrs. Harward ... ..	2	2	0	Mr. John Wildey ... ..	5	5	0
Dr. Burney... ..	2	2	0	Captain Brisac ... ..	2	2	0
Mr. S. Morris ... ..	5	5	0	Mr. Hurlston ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Dangerfield ... ..	1	1	0	Rev. Mr. Skillicorne ... ..	5	5	0
Mr. Richardson ... ..	1	1	0	Dr. Boisragon ... ..	3	3	0
Mr. Hazelton ... ..	2	12	6	Mr. Brawd ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. J. Byrch ... ..	2	2	0	Mr. Joseph Smith ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Hastings ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Wm. Bishop ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Bennett ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Welchman ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Haseldine ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. V Morris ... ..	2	2	0
Rev. Mr Fowler... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Reilly ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. H. Jessop ... ..	2	2	0				

The Parish Church congregation established a Sunday School in July 1787. The children were taught in a small room over the North Porch, which, in the week, was used as a free Day School. The Sabbath School was supported by private contributions, and the very early date that it was commenced is an interesting and creditable fact—being only six years after Raikes had first planned them at Gloucester—and before the scheme was publicly known. The *Cheltenham Chronicle*, of August 24, 1809, contains the first notice (in its advertising columns) of a public appeal on behalf of these excellent institutions, which was introduced, locally, by the benevolent Robert Raikes, of Gloucester. "Cheltenham.—A Sermon for the Benefit of the Sunday Schools supported by Public Subscription, will be preached in this church, on Sunday next, August 27, by the Rev. John Hepworth, A.M., late Fellow of Caius College, Cambridge. The Number educated at these Schools amounts to One hundred and twenty, who are partly clothed. It is requested that the inhabitants will give orders to have their Pews opened on the occasion." The same local paper of the 31st August following, informs its readers that Mr. Hepworth preached in the Parish Church from Ecclesiasticus xxix chap. 11th verse:—"Lay up thy treasure according to the commandments of the Most High, and it shall bring thee more profit than gold."—The Editor observes that—"A Sermon more admirably calculated for the occasion, or better delivered, we believe, we have never heard, Mr. H's address to the public in behalf of the objects of the charity, was extremely impressive, and his address to the children themselves, was marked by a judicious, though energetic simplicity. The Collection amounted to £68 15s. 11d.,

and while we presume to return our thanks to the preacher, who also read the whole service, we cannot avoid remarking that, although the inducements to spend money are not more scanty at Cheltenham than at other Watering Places, the company have always evinced a very great degree of liberality on these occasions." Another most important object which the congregation attained was the establishment of an Auxiliary Bible Society. Owing to the influence of the Incumbent, Dr. Foulkes, a public meeting was convened at the Town Hall, on September 13, 1814, which was presided over by Thos. Baghot de la Bere, Esq., J.P. The collection, after the meeting, amounted to one hundred guineas. The members of the congregation supported the society solely, until 1821, when the then Incumbent, the Rev. C. Jervis, convened another public meeting at the Assembly Rooms, at which the following persons were appointed a committee:—Dr. Thomas, Dr. Murley, Dr. Bradshaw, Mr. B. Newmarch, Mr. Hall, Mr. Bromfield, Mr. Roughton, Mr. Henney, Mr. Jas. Fowler, Mr. Gyde, Mr. Colt. Mr. J. Fisher. Two only, of this committee, now survive—Dr. Murley and Mr. Gyde. Dr. Murley has ever been a most active member, and, since his retirement from medical practice, has devoted his time to the very benevolent work of circulating the Scriptures among the blind; and besides Cheltenham, visits the greater part of England. According to the minute book in 1822, the order to the Parent Society was for 50 Testaments and 12 pica Bibles for distribution, and the selling price of the Bibles were seven shillings and sixpence. Such has been the success which has marked this truly excellent institution, that it has long since been enabled to support a Depository of its own in Clarence Street. According to the annual reports issued of the working of this society, it appears that from 1851 to 1860 the following is the quantity of the Holy Scriptures circulated in Cheltenham: Bibles, 20,114; Testaments, 15,187; in Foreign languages, 1268; Total 36,569.

The Communion Service belonging to the Church is another proof of the liberality of the worshippers. It is, perhaps, one of the most beautifully executed Sacramental services in England, and was supplied to the Parish by the late Mr. Reviere, silversmith, of the town, at the time the Rev. C. Jervis was Incumbent in 1825, at a cost of £200. Through the influence of the



same minister, a new pulpit was erected; the former one was presented to the congregation by N. Berkeley, Esq., M.P., who further embellished it with crimson velvet hangings at the time of the royal visit of George III.

The Parish Church congregation have always been noted for the liberality of their contributions. In 1816, when it was proposed to found a Provident Society for the Indigent Poor, the sum of £400 was raised after a sermon by the Rev. C. Jervis. During ten years that the dean of Carlisle held the living, the following sums were collected for the different objects named:—

Irish Societies ... ..	1065	6	6
Distressed Irish ... ..	135	19	7
Church Missionary Society ... ..	910	16	1½
Cheltenham Hospital and Dispensary ... ..	872	2	10
National Schools and National Society ... ..	863	6	6½
Cheltenham Infant Schools ... ..	655	5	5
Old Charity School ... ..	271	11	4
Pastorial Aid Society ... ..	568	17	8½
Church Building Society and St. Paul's Church ... ..	409	11	6½
Magdalen Asylum and Female Refuge ... ..	352	11	7
Jews Societies ... ..	804	1	5½
Orphan Asylum ... ..	112	13	1
Christian Knowledge Society and Propagation of the Gospel ... ..	271	9	10
Colonial Church Society ... ..	101	4	8½
Provident and Clothing Society ... ..	232	5	3
Newfoundland Schools and for Fire at St. John's ... ..	184	12	10½
Several Collections of small sums amounting to ... ..	429	19	7
Sacramental Alms and for the Poor .. ..	3955	0	9
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£11,709</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8½</b>

Making an average of £1170 19s. 8d. per annum, for the ten years.

The annual statement of collections and charities, as issued in March, 1861, showed that the congregation had contributed £2052 1s. 2½d. during 1860. According to a parochial report in 1860, the number of sittings in St Mary's Church was 1175, and in the Temporary Church 1600.

The Parish Church has always been most fully attended as a place of worship. The desire to obtain sittings in past years has been such that from £10 to £15 per annum has been paid for the rent of a pew. The parties who received this high rental were the owners of what is called "faculty pews." This ownership was claimed by virtue of some old agreements and faculty

records. The Vestry Books, under dates June 14th, 1786, April 20th, 1791, September 27th, 1791, and January 30th, 1793, report meetings of the inhabitants upon the subject. It would appear that by a majority of votes, it was on those occasions agreed that certain additional galleries were to be erected by private contributions, and that the builders were, in return for such expenditure, to have certain pews allotted to them:—"To them, and to their respective families, and to the future owners and occupiers, and possessors of their said respective messuages or dwelling houses aforesaid, and their respective families, wherein they might respectively sit, stand, kneel, and hear, and attend Divine service and sermons, exclusive of all other persons whomsoever." This act of the parishioners, although it increased the means of accommodation for public worship, yet, in an architectural point of view, it destroys the good effect which the interior would have to the eye of a visitor, the galleries having been erected without regard to the original style and plan of the sacred edifice,—an evil which has been noticed by most of the old historians. The system of letting and of selling these faculty pews was abolished after an Arch-deaconal Visitation in 1846, and "the owners or occupiers" now use them. The only payment upon the holders since that period is one voluntarily agreed to, which amounts to a few shillings annually, and is applied towards the incidental expenses of conducting public worship. In 1628, Mrs. Ann Norwood, the wife of the then lessee of the manor, erected, at her own expense, a gallery at the west end. It was removed in 1813, and several others with it, which were located in the nave, in order to make room for additional pews on the ground floor. The residue of the pews not facultied, or claimed by prescriptive right, belong to the parishioners, and are vested in the Churchwardens for the time being.

"It is to be lamented that the want of accommodation for the numerous families attending Divine service has rendered it necessary to erect so many galleries, whereby the beauties of the interior are totally obscured, or lost in confusion."—(Rudge.)

"Cheltenham Church displays, externally, much architectural beauty. The handsome interior is entirely spoilt by galleries and pews."—(Gomonde).

"The original building was a truly fine one, and rich in its

architecture. The pews and galleries of the Church greatly disfigure it.”—(Hugall).

On September 8, 1835, the Parish Church was honoured with a Triennial Visitation of Dr. Monk, Bishop of Gloucester. No visitation had previously taken place here since 1801—a period of thirty-four years—the Bishop having transferred that honour to Tewkesbury. On Dr. Monk restoring it to Cheltenham, on this occasion, a deputation of the inhabitants waited upon his lordship to thank him for his mark of favour, and afterwards invited him to a public dinner. Dr. Baring, the next Bishop, preached his first sermon in this church, in Nov. 1856, after which nearly £80 was collected for Church Extension.

The large attendance at this place of worship, united with the necessity of closing it during its sanitary purification, led to the erection of, in 1859, a very elegant Temporary Church, in St. George's Place. Since the re-opening of the parent edifice in 1861, services have been conducted at both buildings to full audiences. Such has been the increase of the population, that the original structure now contains about half the congregation. We have no doubt that some future historian will have to record the erection of a more spacious structure for the worshippers in St. Mary's district.

THE MONUMENTS.—From the history and architecture of the structure we pass on to notice the monuments. From the discoveries of ancient coffins, which we have detailed, there is every probability of its having been used as a place of sepulchre for the past thousand years. It is this fact that engenders so many pleasing associations. We have many beautiful churches in our town, displaying their architectural details as designed by modern artist, *but we have but one Parish Church*, with its endearing ties of long departed mortals. We know of no greater pleasure than to enter it alone and unmolested—to pace the dim aisle, interrupted by no other sound than our own footsteps. The solemn stillness of the sanctuary enters the recesses of our mind; the world and its giddy doings are for awhile forgotten, and our spirits hold communion with those who have long been gathered to their fathers. The study of history, and the fulfilment of parochial duties, have caused us to spend many an hour within the precincts of the church wherein we worshipped in our boyhood. We have called to mind the many thousands

who have in succession offered up their Sabbath sacrifices—we have gazed upon the cold and monumental effigies that meet us here and there—empty and silent images of the once great and titled of our town—until, in imagination, we became lost to the material world. We have thought of the ties of kindred and of home, that they tell us must have been rent asunder. What different feelings animated the breast of those whose names are sculptured? The warrior, the faithful pastor, the affectionate parent, the devotee of literature and science, all meet the eye in “marble array,” and seem to warn us that

“The sculptur’d marble shall dissolve in dust,  
And fame, and wealth, and honours pass away;  
Not such the triumphs of the good and just,  
Not such the glories of eternal day.”

The “Good Samaritan” window, as it illumines our path with its “dim religious light” across the sacred precincts of the Holy Communion, reminds us of one, who, but yesterday, held the lordship of the Manor; and who, in the midst of a virtuous career, was suddenly summoned, in the prime of life, from earth to heaven. The reverence of worshipping generations—the breathing of devotional prayers, century after century; the charitable tablets of the piously disposed, have each and all hallowed the place, shedding over it a holy and and silent calm. There is attached to the Parish Church a reverence proportionate to its antiquity, which suggest a train of ideas and sympathies that would not be engendered by viewing the most costly building that the artist of to-day can rear. The mural tablets, as well as monuments are numerous, and their style and inscriptions prove that they commemorate those that were once the wealthy of their race. This fact, added to the size of the structure, demonstrates the former importance of the parish, both in a parochial and religious point of view.

The oldest memorials are the flat stones covering the vaults which form the floor of the church. The continual tread of footsteps have defaced these to a great extent, but here and there the name and heraldic distinction of the once great and noble are decipherable. William Prinn, and members of that celebrated race, have their last resting place denoted by a recently restored flat stone, nearly opposite the communion table (as detailed in the chapter on the history of the Prinn family.)

Adjoining, is the family vault of the Greville family. This is unquestionably the oldest memorial stone now in the church that is clearly traceable. It is a relict of one of those fine brass mementoes for which this county is justly celebrated. It denotes the burial place of the renowned Judge Greville, who sat in the Common Pleas during the reigns of Henry VII. and Henry VIII., and other branches and descendants, including a Rector of Whittington. They resided at Arle Court—a mansion that yet retains, both externally and internally, marks of antiquity. On the chancel floor is the effigy, in brass, of Greville, time of Henry VII. The monumental brasses afford a most valuable history of art, from 1392 to 1626, exhibiting a view of the costume worn by our ancestors, both civil and military, rarely to be met with so perfect in any other county in England.”—(Gomonde). Considering its exposed situation, the Greville incised slab is not badly mutilated. On it may yet be clearly traced the effigies, in brass, of the Judge in his judicial robes, his wife, his three sons, and seven daughters; round the margin of the stone, on brass, is the remains of the original inscription as follows:—

——— Slaughter, which William Deceased the XX Days of Marche, in the XXXth yere of the reign of King Henry VIII.

An interesting memorial also occurs in the chancel on the left hand side of the Communion Table. This is in the form of a sunken Tablet, having two pannels, and the arrangement of the letters on the body of the stonework is remarkably curious. This ancient mural relic was erected by a former Incumbent of the parish to the memory of his wife, who was a daughter of Lady Sandy's, and also “to Maria, his second daughter.” The affectionate inscription upon it is in harmony with what history has recorded of the inner life of the writer. It is “the sad memorial of John English, Dr. in Divinity,” who, out of love to the cause of religion, filled the office of Incumbent when the salary was only £20 per annum, in the reigns of James I. and Charles I. Dr. English was a martyr to the cause of Evangelical truth, and was one of the many who suffered confinement in the common gaol during the Puritanical persecution. The tablet alludes to this painful incident, and sets forth that his wife died of a broken heart, in consequence of his separation





IMPERIAL PROMENADE, CHERTTENHAM.

from her "by eighteen weeks' close imprisonment." So highly was Dr. English esteemed, that his tablet to his wife's memory was originally placed directly over the Communion Table, and in that position the remains of Mrs. English and her daughter were found at the time the Church was concreted in 1860. When the classic altar piece was erected, the churchwardens had the tablet carefully removed to its present place, beneath the small chancel window. We give a copy of the inscription in the form in which it occurs on the following page.

Among the many tablets and monuments which adorn the walls of the sacred pile of a modern character and worthy of note, may be mentioned those intended as memorials to the following persons:—Rev. C. Jervis, M.A., former Incumbent of the parish, and Chaplain to the Duke of Cambridge; Sir W. Myers, Bart., who died at the Battle of Albuera, and his mother, Lady Elizabeth Myers; General John Pennycuicke, C.B., K.H., and Alexander, his son, who were both killed at the Battle of Chillianwallah; Lieut.-Colonel W. R. Elliott, K.H.; Lieut.-Col. W. C. Lennox, H.E.I.C.T.; Diana, the wife of Sir John D. Oily, Bart.; Lieut.-Col. Berkeley, Royal Marines; Letitia Baroness Clonbrock; Sir R. Le Poor French; Sir Ralph Woodford, Bart., Envoy Extraordinary to the Court at Denmark; Mrs. Entwisle, mother to the Duchess of St. Albans; T. Griffiths, Esq., solicitor, &c.

Near the centre of the edifice and not far from the pulpit, there is a large tablet that deserves a special notice here. It is to the memory of one that the town owes a debt of gratitude to—Captain Skillicorne, who first planned out the walks of the original Spa, which was soon to be patronized by the King of the realm.

The inscription on this memorial is of great length, and gives dates and particulars, in reference to the first discovery of the Mineral Waters, that are of local interest. The historical associations connected with it will be found fully detailed in the account of the Skillicorne family given in a previous chapter. Not far from this monument is a small marble tablet, which is also connected with the same period. It denotes the resting place of an humble, but significant person—Mrs. Forty—who was pumper at the Original Spa at the period His Majesty King George III. drank the waters; and, at whose



The sad Memorial of John English, Dr. in Divinity,  
To Jane, his most dear wife, daughter to the Hon  
Elizabeth Sandy, Baroness de la Vincoent Southen,  
From whom hee was divorced by 18 weeks' close impris-  
onement,  
Wth. Soone after caused her death on Aug. 8, 1648,  
Aged to Maria, his 2nd daughter, who deceased Oct. 25,  
1649.

Deere South and Blast : you Both delivered mee :  
Having each happ'd your prison before me,  
Whilst I survive to grieve and find it true  
That for myself I weep more than for you.

Nor can teare quench my zeal, like funeral fire  
That flames for I her loved 'till I expire  
Sin Decit Jugens, & discolui Caprens  
Plus Josux, ac moestas patens

Qui Mendo suspicans, et Caelum aspirans,  
Indementis clamat  
Bone JESU esto meus JESUS !  
Sic meus & JESU et JESUS (Christe) meorum.  
Sweet SAVIOUR of mankind  
The SAVIOUR bee of mee and mine.

Sic { Spirans oravit  
Exspirans exuravit  
Respirans perorabit

John English Socii sancti  
Writatis Studiosi  
Obit ante Christi .....

Amen.

request, her portrait was taken. It was erected by subscription among the visitors of that period.

### THE COURT FAMILY.

Over the old narrow Gothic doorway which leads from the churchyard to the chancel, on the inner wall, in an elevated position, there is a handsome mural tablet. The letters upon it were clearly legible a few years since, but, recently, they have faded away; and as time rolls on, these pages will, perhaps, be the only record of their import. This nearly obliterated monument is intended to be an affectionate memorial of a female member of the Heytesbury family in Wiltshire, of which Lord Heytesbury is the present representative. This now obscure testimonial, which was chiseled by one of the greatest sculptors of the day, tells a sad and melancholy tale.

Cheltenham, at the period when its Spa waters were first becoming known, and the titled and wealthy were attracted to taste their mineral virtues, was the scene of a most revolting murder. The victim was a Mrs. A. Court (one of the many visitors who patronised the original well), of Heytesbury, in Wiltshire, who, with her husband, W. P. A. Court, Esq., and a family consisting of three daughters and four domestics, took up their abode in the town, at a house on the site of the present York Tavern. Amongst the number of domestics was a footman, 30 years of age, of the name of Joseph Armstrong. At different periods, sums of money and articles of value had been missed from the dwelling-house, and the robber was in vain searched for. One morning, Mrs. Court accidentally passed by the dressing-room of her husband, at an early hour, and detected Joseph Armstrong in the act of taking jewellery from a chest. Crime too often begets crime. Armstrong, stung with terror at the thought of being discovered, resolved upon destroying the only being who could give evidence in a court of law against him. The serving-up of breakfast offered an opportunity for carrying his design into effect, and which proved to be, unfortunately, successful. Armstrong infused a large portion of arsenic into the tea-cup of his innocent mistress, which produced its dele-

terious effects almost immediately; she only lingered until the following morning, September 23, 1776, when she expired in the 32nd year of her age. Shakespeare truly says that—

“ Murder, 'though it hath no tongue,  
Will yet speak with most miraculous organ.”

And so it proved in this instance. The husband of the victim had strong suspicions of the causes which incited Armstrong to perpetrate the execrable crime, and upon search being made, a paper containing arsenic and many of the articles stolen, were found in his private chest, and he was handed over to the officers of justice, charged with the twofold crime of robbery and murder. The murderer escaped from the house immediately after the funeral of his mistress, which increased the opinion of his guilt. With him went a spaniel dog, a favourite one of the master. This animal led to the discovery of Armstrong's hiding-place. The officers had been in search for three days, and on the evening of the third day, they observed the dog on the London-road, near to Frog-mill. Considering that this was a good clue, they watched the animal into a wood adjoining, and following him, they found the murderer secreted in a tree. The youth and exalted station of Mrs. Court gave increased interest to the tragedy, and caused a great sensation, as is evident from the accounts of the affair yet extant in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, *Newgate Calendar*, and the *Morning Post*, published at the time. The murderer was conveyed to Gloucester Gaol, and took his trial at the Spring Assizes, 1777. He was convicted, ordered to be executed at Gloucester, and his body afterwards to be hung in chains on a gibbet, as near the spot where he committed the foul crime as the parish authorities would allow. Between the day of his condemnation and that fixed for his execution, Armstrong made several determined attempts at self-destruction, but they were all thwarted by the vigilance of the gaoler. At that period, the sanguinary criminal laws were in full force, and the doctrine of “blood for blood” held paramount sway over the feelings of the community. Armstrong was duly executed amidst the execrations of a numerous multitude, and died the death of ignominy; and the remaining portion of the sentence was carried out. Amongst the many events which have wrought such important changes in the position of this town was that of

enclosing all the commonable lands of the district, half a century since. One of the many lands thus enclosed was situated a little below North Lodge, the late residence of Lord Dunally, and denominated "The Marsh." At the time the murder was committed, "The Marsh," according to Moreau's Tour to Cheltenham Spa, was one of the earliest drives for visitors. "The most common ride," he says, "has generally been in the Marsh at the back of the town, a mile round, with a pleasant view of the neighbouring hills." The Marsh, being thus a public road and waste land, was selected as the spot for the exhibition of the retribution of offended justice. In the centre of the Marsh, a lofty gibbet was erected, and lest it should become mutilated by time or by any malicious persons, the posts were pierced with pieces of iron and massive "hob nails." On the cross-bar of this gibbet, was suspended, in strong chains, the body of Armstrong, the murderer. The body was publicly brought from Gloucester on a low, open four-wheel truck, drawn by a horse. A considerable number assembled to witness its being placed on a gibbet, which was done with all the usual formalities of an execution. The office of hangman was performed by Mr. Artus, to whom was awarded the fee of half a guinea for his unpleasant task. When the corpse had been suspended about an hour, in consequence of the weight of the chains, the cross-bar broke, and it fell to the ground. A strong piece of oak having been procured, the body was again raised, and finally remained. The Marsh became deserted as a public drive; its name was associated with terror and superstition in the minds of the inhabitants generally; no one would pass that way when evening had once set in, for fear of sharing a like fate with "Tam O'Shanter." The precise spot where the gibbet stood was where a gate has been erected in the by-lane behind Lord Dunally's residence, leading to the Marle-hill estate, and in almost a direct line with Dunally Street and the present Henrietta Street, the ancient "Fleece Lane." Mrs. Court lies buried in a vault near the south entrance into the Old Church-yard. Over the vestry door in the Parish Church, at the spot we have been describing, her afflicted husband erected to her memory a neat white marble tablet, on which is the following inscription, by the celebrated Westmacott:—

To the Memory of KATHERINE,  
 The Wife of William P. A. Court, of Heytesbury in the County  
 of Wilts, Esq.,  
 Who departed this Life on the 23d day of Sept. 1776,  
 in the 32nd year of her age.  
 The strictest Honour and Virtue, Elegance of Manners,  
 Integrity of Heart, and Delicacy of Sentiment,  
 Endeared her to a Select Circle of Friends and Acquaintance.  
 She was cherished as an only Child by an indulgent Father,  
 Beloved from Infaney by a tender Husband,  
 In whose Arms She Died an unnatural Death Effected by Poison,  
 Administered by the hands of a Cruelly Wicked Livery Servant  
 Whose Resentment, at being detected in Theft,  
 Prompted him to Perpetrate this horrid and Execrable Crime.

The relatives of the murderer, who resided near this town, were of respectable origin, and had but recently settled here from Dublin, and were, of course, annoyed at the public exhibition that was being made of the corpse. One morning, about twelve months after the erection of the gibbet, the body and the ponderous chains were missing. It was believed at the time that the friends of the deceased had removed it; the ground was broken up by the hoofs of horses, so that it appeared to have been forced down by horse power, but all search for the body proved fruitless: The posts continued to remain in their original position until the ground became private property, under the provisions of the afore-named Enclosure Act. When these posts were in the act of being removed for the purpose of planting hedges and enclosing the ground, the chain and the bones of the murderer were found directly beneath the cross-bar from whence they had been suspended, a few feet below the surface. The man (a very young one) who made the discovery, was so terror stricken, in consequence of so many superstitious tales that were then current on the subject, that he died in a few days afterwards! The skull of the murderer was purchased, at the time of its exhumation, by Dr. Minster, and the remainder of the skeleton by Dr. Newell, both eminent medical men residing in the town at the time. The spot is, even to this day, a very solitary one, and some idea may be formed of its desolate character when it is stated that it formed a "Marsh," without a

single habitation. The main posts were removed to near the present Clonbrock House, and were used as gate-posts. The spirit of enterprise which characterised the residents of this "Queen of Watering Places" some years ago, led to the removal of all that was unsightly or not calculated to accord with the taste of the fashionable visitor. These gibbet-posts formed the gate entrance to a boarding-school which then existed, and not only their removal, but their final destruction was resolved upon, for fear they should again conjure up some more "midnight spectres." This was ultimately accomplished by committing them to a bonfire, specially kindled for the purpose; and thus ends the last link in the chain of the history of the tragical murder committed at Cheltenham!

Like the interior of the edifice, the churchyard without is the silent depository of many families of distinction. Here are monuments to the memory of Mrs. Entwisle, the Mother of Her Grace the Duchess St. Albans; Sir Isaac Heard, Garter, King at Arms; Sir John Maclean, &c., members of the Napier family, lie interred near the central entrance from the High Street. On a tomb, to the memory of Captain G. Younghusband, is the following additional inscription:—"In 1851, was renewed by Lady Napier, the only sister of the late Captain G. Younghusband, R.N., and wife of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, as a sincere tribute of affection to her lamented brother." The ancestors of the rich and eccentric banker of Gloucester, James Wood, Esq., are buried about midway along the path which leads from the High Street to Chester Walk. At the time the vestry was enlarged, the remains of two old headstones were built in with the outer wall, bearing date 1607 and 1614.

Amongst so many mementoes of the dead which record the resting place of the titled and wealthy, are the remains of a few that belong to the humbler ranks in life. These are fast fading away, and, in order to rescue them from oblivion, and to illustrate the period when the town was occupied by the usual residents of a country village, we transcribe a few epitaphs, notable for their quaintness and eccentricities. About midway along the path leading from the High Street to the chancel, is a flat-stone, forming the burial place of one of the old families of the town. The following inscription,

which used to attract the attention of visitors, was once clearly legible upon it. It is now nearly defaced by the continual tread of footsteps;—

“To the memory of John Higgs, died 1820.

Here lies John Higgs,  
A famous man for killing pigs,  
For killing pigs was his delight  
Both morning, afternoon, and night,  
Both heats and cold he did endure,  
Which no physician could e're cure;  
His knife is laid, his work is done,  
I hope to heaven his soul is gone.”

Not far from this vault is a headstone, on which is inscribed:—

“To the memory of John Paine, blacksmith, died 1796.

My sledge and hammer lies reelected,  
My bellows pipe has lost its wind,  
My fire's extinct, my forge decayed,  
And in the dust my vice is layed,  
My coal is spent, my iron's gone,  
My nails are drove, my work is done.”

On a small broad headstone are the following brief but curious lines:—

“To the memory of Isaac Ballinger, died 1721.

Reader! pray covet not this world,  
Out of it you may soon be hurled,  
For as a wheel it turns about,  
And it was a wheel that turned me out.”

An Innkeeper who was connected with the “Crown” and “White Hart,” thus chronicleed in witty terms his worldly connections:—

“In memory of Amos Quimby,

My ‘Crown’ to God I do resign,  
My children to a faithful friend,  
My wife was left to weep  
When I the ‘Crown’ forsook.”

A CHURCH HOUSE existed at the Chester Walk entrance to the churchyard until August 13, 1813, when it was removed by an order of the Vestry, in consequence of its dilapidated condition. Upon taking down the key stone of the arch of the doorway, the date A.D. 1507, was discovered. It afforded shelter for four indigent inhabitants, and formed a sort of Alma

House without an endowment. This relic of the monastic era is thus alluded to in the Jurors' Report at the Manor Office, in 1625:—"That there is no land or rents, to their knowledge concealed, detained, or denied, other than the Church House, which standeth for the most part in the churchyard." These houses were built before the monastic dissolution; and when Protestantism was first the law of the land. They were in operation until the old poor law introduced poor rates to relieve the locally distressed. The poor inhabitants were regaled in them, and the sums collected for that object yielded more than was necessary, and prevented any appeal to the public for a local tax. Fosbrooke shows that the surplus in some local parishes was sufficient to keep the church in repair. He says that two modes were resorted to to raise the money spent in Church Houses; the Offertory, every month, which, in the case of Dr. Hammond, of Westridge, was so successful in his parish, "that there was little need of ever making any tax for the poor, he even got a stock for apprenticing poor children, and a surplussage to assist neighbouring parishes." "The Churchwardens' wives used to collect; a custom still used in Catholic countries."

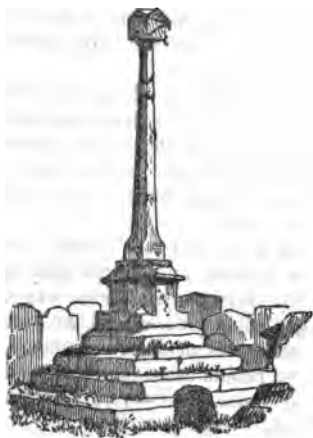
"Here, also, was a Church House; the lower rooms of these were habitations of the poor; in the upper room was held the Manorial Court and Vestry; every Sunday morning a market was held for all kinds of provisions, and here the inhabitants had their music and dancing."—(Fosbrooke.)

Aubery tells us that in his day no rates for the poor were levied, but that the church ale of Whitsuntide—to use his own words—"did the business." In every parish there was a place called the "Church House," to which belonged "spits, crocks, and utensils for cooking." In these houses, once a year, the people of the parish were wont to assemble.

"Before the Reformation, there were no poors' rates; the charitable doles given at religious houses, and church ales in every parish, were sufficient. In every parish there was a 'Church House,' to which belonged spits, pots, crocks, &c., for dressing provisions. Here the housekeepers met, and were merry, and gave their charity. The young people came there too, and had dancing, bowling, shooting at butts, &c."—(Antiquarian Repertory).



The churchyard was originally exposed, and being a place of public thoroughfare, much injury was done to the tomb stones. Several very ancient conventual flat stones, with Lombardic inscriptions, by the North Porch door, were gradually mutilated. This was further effected by the spot being used as a play ground, by the scholars attending the Charity School which was carried on over the porch, until the room in Devonshire Street was erected. The present enclosure of the yard by iron railings was effected in 1855, through the exertions of C. Hale, a former town surveyor, at a cost of £650 : half was raised by voluntary contributions, and the rest paid out of the Commissioners' Rate. The author of a "Tour to Cheltenham Spa," 1806, observes :— "The churchyard is, by Mr. Moreau, called the most beautiful in England, extending from East to West, about three hundred feet, and rendered particularly agreeable by its walks being shaded with double rows of lime trees, which surround and cross it. At the South-West gate, a neat gravel walk leads to the Church Mead, and through this, another to the Chelt, over which a draw bridge is thrown to form a passage to the public walks, planned by Norborne Berkeley, Lord Botolphcluncheon. The church spire, rising from the walk, forms a very pleasing point of view from the Well."



**THE CROSS.**—In the churchyard is a stone cross of high antiquity. The basement evidently belongs to the early part of the thirteenth century. The cross consists of a single shaft, rising from the centre of a pedestal, on each side of which is a flight of massive stone steps. Until within the past few years, two sun dials were placed on the apex, as represented in our sketch. The origin of these parochial crosses are referable to various causes, both of a local and national character. They were placed in churchyards "to inspire reverence for the

mysteries which the people were about to witness." "Crosses were sometimes boundaries; sometimes erected to record remarkable events, as where a battle had been fought, or persons slain therein; sometimes placed on the spot where any singular instances of God's mercy had been shown; or where a person had been murdered by robbers, or met with any violent death, where the corpse of any great person rested; and very often in churchyards to remind the people of the benefits vouchsafed to us by the Cross of Christ; and in early times at most places of public concourse. At those crosses the corpse, in carrying to church, was set down, that all the people attending might pray for the soul of the departed. It was customary for mendicants to station themselves at crosses to solicit alms for Christ's sake, and penances were sometimes finished at them, which concluded with weeping and the usual marks of contrition."—(Archæologia).

"Crosses in churchyards, seem to have had other uses; for, in the earlier ages, in some places, where they had no church built, Divine service was performed under a cross in some open and convenient place."—(Rudge). "Here stood a cross upon the void ground, and that the same cross was worshipped by the parishioners there, as crosses be commonly worshipped in churchyards."—(Vestry Records, Nov. 25, 1449, Mary Magdalen, London.)

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## CHAPTER XI.

### The Rectory.

The past history of the Incumbency of the parish is replete with incidents which illustrate the different phases of religious faith through many successive ages. The enquiry divides itself into two separate branches—the period before, and the period after—the Reformation. From the first local establishment of religious institutions by the early Saxon converts down to the

overthrow of Catholicism by Henry VIII., Cheltenham had ample endowments for the support of ministers to its ancient church, chapels, and chantries. From the days of Protestantism downwards, the property forming these endowments passed into private hands, and as a consequence, the maintenance of religious worship has been fraught with some difficulty. The lands connected with the living were of considerable value, and where leased out from time to time to parties by the reigning monarch, on condition that ministers were supported out of the income so arising. The non-fulfilment of these conditions has caused most injurious effects. This has arisen in some measure from the practice of sub-letting to individuals who were called "farmers of tythes." During the early reign of the Protestant faith, one of the longest lessees was the celebrated philosopher and statesman, Lord Chancellor Bacon. And during the same period another notable character, in religious history, was Incumbent—the persecuted Puritan Divine, Dr. English. The churches of Cheltenham and Charlton were one united living, and are both referred to in the same documents.

The ancient ecclesiastical history of Cheltenham unfolds many very curious incidents, which fully demonstrate the former antiquity and importance of the town. A prominent portion of that history is the evidence which proves the early establishment and subsequent endowment of our local curacy. The great extent and celebrity of this "Queen of Watering Places" renders it desirable to ascertain, as far as possible, every particular concerning its past vicissitudes, and the erection of many modern places of worship has increased the antiquity and interest connected with the original living. It will be therefore not an uninteresting task to trace out the first endowment and subsequent vicissitudes of the perpetual curacy of Cheltenham.

The history of the Cheltenham incumbency may, in fact, be said to commence with the first traceable account of a local Christian institution. At the period Domesday Book was written, in the eleventh century, "priests" are mentioned as supported by land, and "Reinbald holds one hide and half, which belongs to the Church." Thus it is evident that, long prior to that date, a corporate ecclesiastical body must have been in existence. Of one of the priests thus recorded, it is said that

"Reinbald was Dean of the Collegiate Church of Cirencester, and in 1065, 23rd, Edward the Confessor, Chancellor of England, set his hand as a witness, subscribing himself such, to the Charter of Privileges, granted by that King to the Abbey of Westminster. Reinbald lies buried in the body of the church of Cirencester.—(Cheltenham Guide, 1786).

From these authentic sources we learn that endowments for the support of a church had existed in the Saxon era, and from that early age down to the rejection of Catholicism as the religion of the State, ample provision had been made for the maintenance of a local priesthood. The property which Saxon and Norman, in succession, gave for the support of religious rites, was enhanced by further bequests in following ages. Henry I. gave a mill and various lands in the vicinity, then producing annually £24, as an endowment. At this time the rector of Leckhampton had to contribute two shillings every year in aid of the endowment. The next possessor of our curacy was the then flourishing abbey of Cirencester, it having been given to that institution by Henry in 1133; and the gift was confirmed with great pomp and ceremony by Pope Celestine, in 1289. It would appear that the Cheltenham curacy at this period was an object of peculiar interest, for, immediately after it came into possession of Cirencester Abbey, the value of the endowment was enhanced by the gift of seven large estates by six celebrated noblemen; among the number was Sir Walter Hawkes, the first local crusader. The records of Lanthony Priory (the ruins of which still exist near Gloucester) relate, that some of the lands forming the endowment, and situate in Down-Hatherley, were rented by that edifice for domestic purposes, and an annual rental paid for the same in 1251. The lamentable civil wars which took place during the succeeding reigns of Henry II. and Henry III., caused great reversions in the religious property of the country. In 1415, the second year of the last reign, our curacy was possessed by the richly endowed Nunnery of Sion, which was situated at Brentford. At length came the memorable reign of Henry VIII., and with it the dissolution of all monastic property—and, as a consequence, our curacy once more became invested in the Crown. Like all similar curacies, it was successively let on lease on May 22, 1560, to Sir Henry Jerningham; on May 10, 1592, to Sir

W. Greenwell; and on February 27th, 1597, to Francis Bacon, Esq., afterwards the Lord Chancellor, and the renowned statesman and philosopher; and ultimately it was granted by King James to Sir Baptist Hicks.

In previous chapters, we have had to refer to the services which a former Steward of the Manors of Cheltenham and Charlton has rendered as a recorder of local events. To John Stubbs we are again indebted for the preservation of some of the most curious and interesting documents belonging to the Curacy since the days of Protestantism. The manuscripts, from the facts they contain, are most invaluable, as elucidating the early struggle for support made by the Anglican Church. We print these documents verbatim, feeling assured that they will be read with interest, on account of the light which they throw upon the history of religious institutions at the dawn of the Reformation:

*"Extract of a Letter from J. Stubbs, to Dr. Mansell, Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, dated Charleton Kinges, June 25, 1633, as to the state of the cures and their maintenance in Cheltenham and Charleton Kinges.*

"Rec'oria du Cheltenham cu capella de Charleton R'g eidem annexat. com. Glouc'r.

"40 Eliz. 27 Febr. The premises were granted to Frances Bacon, Esq., for 40 years, under the rent of 75lbs, 13 4, and under these exceptions and coven'ts, except the advouson of the Church and Chapel. The Lessee to find two fit and discreet Chaplains, and two Deacons, to celebrate Divine service, and also to find bread and Wine for the Sacrament, and straw for the Churches, and Ropes and Bells," which lease was to commence presently, if no former Lease were theretofore made thereof, if yea then from the determination thereof.

"Frances Morrice and Frances Phillips purchased the premises of King James for the use of divers contracts in fee farm amongst divers other impropriations.

"The premises came to the hands of Sir Baptist Hicks. King James graunted the same unto the said Sir Baptist and his heirs in fee simple upon his surrender of the fee farm thereof into his Majesty's hands, together with the parsonage of Cambden. excepting the advousons of Churches and Chapels.

"About the year of our Lord, 1609, I showed Dr. Parry, the Bishop of Gloucester, the true Copy of the Lease granted to Mr. Bacon, afterwards Lord Chancellor, and desired his aid for the settling of preaching Ministers in the said Churches, and for the allowance of sufficient Stipends (which I was informed was in his Lordship's power), for their maintenance, who shortly afterwards preached at Cheltenham, and dealt with Mrs. Badger (the mother of both of the Higges menconed in your Deede,) about the encreasing the Minister's stipends, and that learned Preachers might be provided for the said Churches. But finding her obstinate, the Parishioners peticoned the Erle of Salisbury and Sir Julius Cæsar, Chancellor of the Exchequer (who have alwayes commission to deale for the King's Lands and revenues and all things thereunto appertayning), to take some speedy course for reformation of the said abuses, and the said Lord Bishop delivered the peticon with his own hands. Whereupon my Lord Tre'r directed his L're to the said Mrs. Higges, the farmer of the premises, as it followeth, viz. :—

"After my hearty comendacons, having receaved from my good Lord, the Lord Bp. of Gloucester, a complt. against you in the name of the Parishioners of Cheltenham and Charleton, that whereas by a Covenant contained in your lease of the tympropiat Rectory, there, you are bound to maynteyn at your own costs and charges, two discreet Chaplains, and two Deacons, for the service of God and instructing His people in the sd. Churches, you have, notwithstanding, maynteyned only two reading Ministers there with the only allowance of 12lb a year to the scandall of the Church of God, and the defrauding of his Majesty's subjects of the Spiritual food of their souls. Although I might call you to strict account for the same by processe to answer the breach of your Coven't, I have, notwithstanding, thought good for this time to let you know by this my letter what complaint is made against you, and do require you either to reforme the abuse forthwith by allowing two sufficient Preachers comp'tent stipends, with the speedy knowledge of the Lord Bp. there, or else to make your speedy repaire unto me to the Court, to shew what reason you have to continue such an abuse, which, if it be true, as is informed, I think myself bound in duty to his Majesty and in conscience towards God, speedily to reforme. And so be, I

'committ you to God, expecting to receive an answer how you  
'mean to proceed therein.

" ' Your loving Friend,

" ' R. SALISBURY.'

" ' *From the Court, 10 April, 1610.*'

" Mrs. Badger's Nephewe, Mr. Thomas Stephens, then Prince Henry, his Attorney-Generall, did labor the Bishop of Glour. being one of the sd. Prince's Chaplaines to be favourable to his Aunt in the matter albeit his Lordship was resolved to allow sufficient stipends to the Ministers. But before any thing was effected the Lord Treasurer died, and the sd. Lord Bisp. was removed to Worcester. And notwithstanding that Mr Stephens had promised the Lord Bp. that his Aunt Badger should willingly allowe 20lbs a yere to the Ministers, after many delays, he answered plainly that he could not procure her to give the sd. Ministers any increase of their stipends.

" About the yere 1620, the inhabitants did petition the Lord Chancellor Bacon, to whom Queen Elizabeth granted her said Parsonage for XL yeres, that his Lordship would compel his Assignee to perform the sd. Covts. and to allow good stipends, seeing the said Parsonage was worth 600lb per annum. His Lordship answered that she might as well so doo, because he had but 1000 marks for the whole term of 40 yeres, and thereupon, wrote her a letter to the effect following, viz. :—

" ' *The Copy of my Ld. Chancellor's Letter to Mrs. Badger.*

" ' After my hearty comendacons. Whereas you are tyed by Covent. with me to find 2 fit and discreet Chaplains, and 2 Deacons, Bread and Wyne and other necessities for the Churches and Parishioners of Cheltenham and Charleton, and to perform all other things which on my part are to be done by virtue of the Lease granted unto me by Queen Eliz., I am informed by the Peticon of the inhabitants of the sd. Parishes, that you have notwithstanding, defrauded them, not only of the 2 Deacons, Bread and Wyne, other necessities that you ought by the Covent. to provide at your owne charge, but also have deprived them of the spiritual food of their souls, allowing yerely unto two Curates X lbs a year. Although you have given me cause to call you to accompt, for breach of your Covent. by a legal proceeding, yet have I thought good at this time to



ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHELTENHAM.





admonish you thereof, and to require you presently to reform the said abuses, by allowing unto 2 such discreet Chaplains as shall be noiated by his Majestie or his Highness assigns 40lb yearly unto either of them, and duely to perform covenant of the said Lease, so as there be no further cause of complaint in that behalf against you. So expecting your conformity herein, without delay, I bid you farewell.

“ ‘ From Yorke House, the 19 Nov., 1620

“ ‘ Your loving friend,

“ ‘ FRA. VERULAM.’

—(Lord Bacon).

“ The Lord Chancellor was removed out of his office at the Parliament, before Mrs. Badger had returned any answer to the sd. Letter. The Parishioners then exhibited a Petition to the King, praying his Majesty by his leave to command Thos. and John Higges, the present farmers to performe the said Covenants, and to allow unto such Chaplains and Deacons as his Majestie and his assigns should nominate such competent stipends as should be thought fit by his Highness. Thereupon the said farmers and Parishioners submitted themselves to the award of Mr. Endimion Porter, and Mr. John Parker, who ordered the said farmers to to pay 30lb per annum to the Ministers, and yet upon relacon of their Debts, the sd. arbitrators abated 20lb per annum for 5 years, and then Mr. Jno. Parker abated 5lb more for the sd. 5 years, in the consideration that the sd. farmers did voluntary agree to the order recited in your Deed, which 5lb per annum the Parishioners did supply at his request, as far as I now remember.

“ Then we caused the sd. covenants to be decreed in the Chancery ; and because we could not procure Mr. Walker, our Minister of Charlton, to leave that place upon the increase of the stipends by virtue of the Covenant as he had faithfully promised, and for that neither of the Ministers was Master of Arts, and for that cause not capable of the increase of the stipends by virtue of the Covenant the Lord Keeper upon the Parishioners Petition did decree 20lbs of the sd. allowance to Mr. Pantow, then Minister of Cheltenham, and the rest to Mr. Brooke and Dr. English, who was placed in Mr. Panton's roome at Cheltenham, as by the decree and order of both, which I send you the true copies verbatim, may appear. Afterwards

the President of Trinity College, bestowing a preferment upon Mr. Brooke, he acquainted his Parishioners that he intended to leave that place, I would to God that others would do the like, that we might procure learned divines to succeed them. Then Mr. Murrell, our now Minister, without our privities, got the place as he saith, from the Lord Keeper and the Lord Cambden, where he hath continued ever since to our good lyking, but now having gotten other preferment he doth not imitate Mr. Brooke in leaving this.

"I will trouble you no more at this tyme. If upon consideration hereof anything shall be wanting, I will be ready upon notice to inform you better for either the originall or true copies of every thinge that hath been done concerning the business are in my custody. This only I request, that as you have shewed me the Deed passed from my Lord Cambden to you, so that you will vouchsafe to be pleased to send me the copy thereof, that I may enter it in my book wherein I have registered all the passages of this business to the intent that posterity may hereafter know how to inform you of any thinge that shall be here done contrary to the intent of our ho. and pious Benefactor. And so not doubting of your readiness to yield to this my reasonable peticon, I humbly take my leave.

"Yor. Worships in all service to be commanded,

"J. STUBBES.

"Charleton Kinges, June 25, 1633."

Both in a local and national point of view, these documents reveal facts of the deepest interest. The correspondents were of no ordinary character, including the immortal Bacon.

"Mr. Thomas' Stephens," Attorney-General to Prince Henry, eldest son of King James I., was of the family of that name; situated at Lypiatt, Eastington, &c., in Gloucestershire, who mainly supported the Parliamentary interest in that county during the Civil War.

The arrangement as to the Stipends, settled by Mr. John Parker on behalf of the inhabitants, and Mr. Endinson Porter, on behalf of the Higgs, farmers, of the inappropriate Rectory, at £40 for Cheltenham, and £40 for Charlton, was effected by Deed of Covenant, 17 Feb. 19 Jac. 1, confirmed by Decree in Chancery, 30 June, 22 Jac 1, in Lord Keeper Williams time, and still subsists.

The great philosopher and statesman, Bacon, when taking his 40 years' lease of the living of Queen Elizabeth at the rate of £75 annually, had certain conditions to fulfil. He had to find "two fit and discreet Chaplains" for the churches at Cheltenham and Charlton, besides "two Deacons," and also "bread and wine for the sacraments, and straw for the churches, and ropes for the bells." The living was, however, sublet by Lord Bacon to Mrs. Higgs, of Charlton, who "farmed" the estate, and paid only Ten Pounds annually to "two reading Ministers." The inhabitants very properly asked the aid of the Bishop of the Diocese in the matter, and more especially as at that time the female Impropiator was realizing £600 annually out of the estate. The Bishop came and preached at the Parish Church and remonstrated with Mrs. Higgs, but to no effect. The next step was a petition to the Earl of Salisbury, and Sir Julius Cæsar, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "to take speedy course for the reformation of the said abuse." The Earl of Salisbury, in his letter to Mrs. Higgs, points out that £10 a year salary for two Ministers is a "scandall to the Church of God, and the defrauding of his Majesty's subjects of the food of their souls." Not succeeding up to this time, the Spiritual parishioners appeal direct to the great Bacon. His reply, as will be seen on reference to his letter, is characteristic of the man. He reminds the Impropiator that he could call to his aid the strong arm of the law, but that he prefers an appeal to conscience. It appears that the curacy was no source of profit to the statesman, for that he had been paid "but 1000 marks for the whole term of 40 years." As time rolled on, little or no increase was effected in the Ministers' stipend, and even to this day, the Incumbent of the "Queen of Watering Places" is "passing rich with forty pounds a year," from the ancient endowment we have been detailing.

The original grant in Latin from Elizabeth to Lord Bacon is recorded in Dixon's History of that Statesman, and upon the transaction the author observes that,—“In 1598, Francis Bacon promoted a Bill to prevent the enclosure of land, and restore enclosed lands to tillage—and at length the measure passed, chiefly owing to Lord Bacon. Only two weeks after signing her name to his Bill for replacing the yeomen on the soil from which they have been driven, Elizabeth sets her hand to a grant

of a third estate to Bacon. This act of her princely grace confers on Bacon the Rectory and Church of Cheltenham, together with the Chapel at Charlton Kings, in the lovely valley nestling under the Cleeve and Leckhampton Hills; a valley not yet famed for those mineral springs, those shady walks, those pretty spas, and gardens, which, in the days of Victoria, have transformed Lansdown and Pittville into suburbs of delight; yet rich in the voluptuous charms of nature, and blest with a prodigal fertility, of corn and fruit, of kine and sheep."—(Dixon's Personal History of Lord Bacon.)

Cheltenham was not the only place that suffered by the deprivation of spiritual instruction. Many of the adjacent parishes, which were lay Improvements, had to depend entirely upon the feeling of the proprietor in the matter. In some cases Divine service was occasionally performed, and, in others, not at all. The adjacent parish of Withington offers a striking and melancholy illustration of the state of ecclesiastical affairs locally, in the sixteenth century. The inhabitants presented to Queen Elizabeth a petition praying that the Rector, the Rev. J. Knowles, might be removed from his office, "because he had neither preached himself in the Parish Church nor employed another, for seven years!"

The Cheltenham Rectory passed into the Hicks family, whose descendants have ever since been connected with the town either by residence or by the holding of judicial offices.

The impropriation was granted to Sir Baptist Hicks, on condition that he should allow a yearly stipend of £40 to the officiating minister. Sir Baptist delegated the power of electing the minister to the Principal and Fellows of Jesus College, Oxford. The following extract from the deed of investment will show the restrictions imposed by Sir Baptist on the power of the electors:—"The parties recommended by the College, must be sufficient preaching ministers, masters of arts of two years standing, at least, and unmarried persons. The College, upon any avoidance of either of the said churches, to present to the heire of the Lord Campden three of the fellowes, and he to nominate and elect who he pleaseth. If after such presentment made, the heire shall not, within six weeks, elect out of the persons so presented, the nomination for that turne, shall be in the College; and on the other side, if the College present not within two

months, the heire shall name for that turne. None to be elected by the Colledge, or presented by the heire, but fellows of the Colledge, and they to continue but six years at most; unless by a new presentment or election. The said ministers to preach once every Sabbath, not to be absente both together, to have no other benefice, and to remain unmarried." Thus it will be seen that Sir Baptist Hicks gave the power of nominating the minister to Jesus Colledge, Oxford, subject to the restriction that the elected were to be M.A.'s of two years standing, to hold no other benefice, and to remain unmarried. This last item was fully carried out, and the register book in the vestry records the names of twenty-three Welsh Bachelors who have held the living from the time of Sir Baptist down to the Rev. R. Foulkes, in 1799. From this manuscript we are enabled to publish the—

**NAMES OF THE INCUMBENTS OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
CHELTENHAM FROM THE RESTORATION OF CHARLES II.**

1662—Rev. R. Bowen.	1734—Rev. Edmund Meyrick.
1668—" Henry Maurice.	1741—" Thos. Morgan.
1671—" Henry Lloyd.	1754—" Jones Reid.
1673—" Ralph Weld.	1767—" John Lloyd.
1688—" Kenrick Palestone.	1778—" Hugh Hughes.
1692—" Luke Williams.	1789—" H. Llewellyn.
1709—" Henry Mease.	1793—" W. Rowlands.
1716—" Humphrey Lloyd.	1794—" H. Mesham.
" Thos. Ray.	1799—" Henry Foulkes.
" Humphrey Maurice.	1816—" Charles Jervis.
1724—" Thos. Edwards.	1826—" Francis Close.
1729—" Geo. Stokes.	1857—" Edward Walker (the present Incumbent.)

The impropriation was vested in the Hicks family for upwards of a century, when it passed successively to the Earl of Essex and John De la Bere, Esq.; and J. Pitt, Esq., M.P. At the period Mr. Pitt held the living the Parish Church was the only place of worship connected with the Established Church, in the town. He was entitled to all fees and tithes. Mr. Pitt, by a legislative enactment, effected a material alteration in the value of the living. A large portion of the ground on which some of the most valuable property of the town is now built was once commonable or waste land. This he obtained possession of, and all the lands became tithe-free, and allotments in lieu of tithes, were made to the lay impropriator, on one of which allotments the stipend of £40 a-year to the curate, was, by

virtue of a clause in the Act, charged. In consequence of this act, many of the most valuable houses in this town are totally exempt from the payment of Church or Burial-ground rates, from the circumstance of their having been erected on the ground thus enclosed.

The act which Mr. Pitt obtained for enclosing the commonable land in the place, has produced effects which were never contemplated. It was passed 41 George III. (1801), entitled "An Act for Dividing, Alloting, and Inclosing the open Fields, Meadows, Pastures and other Commonable and Waste Lands within the Tything or Hamlet of Cheltenham, in the County of Gloucester." The most valuable property in the place has since been erected on the ground thus enclosed, and the following extract from a report presented at a vestry meeting in 1843, and compiled by a committee of enquiry appointed by the ratepayers, will explain the situation, and amount of assessment of the houses which now stand on this glebe land:—

N <sup>o</sup> . of Houses.	Where situate.	Amount of Assessment.
9	Hawlett-street .....	£298
7	Kingston-place .....	76
15	Pittville-villas .....	737
5	Prestbury-road .....	168
6	Segrave-place .....	373
32	Pittville-lawn, &c. ....	2941
72	Pittville .....	4788
39	Clarence-square, &c. ....	2057
26	Northfield-terrace .....	371
71	Brunswick and Hanover-streets .....	591
26	Hanover-street, &c. ....	217
25	Hungerford-street, &c. ....	203
32	Victoria-street and square .....	252
18	Perkeley-place and street .....	1248
6	High-street .....	626
32	Cambray .....	1847
24	Bath-road and street .....	793
22	Bath-street and part of Cambray .....	663
12	Essex-place .....	285
24	Crescent and Crescent-place .....	1425
2	Bottom of North-place .....	83

## SUMMARY.

House situate on glebe land .....	505
Their Assessments .....	£20,142

In five years after the enclosure took place, Mr. Pitt obtained an Act which enabled him to exchange with Jesus College, the living of Bagendon, in this county, then his property, for their right of electing the Cheltenham minister." In the Diocesan Registrar Office this Act may be seen, and it reveals much that is very interestingly connected with the past history of the curacy. It is signed by the Rev. H. Foulkes, a former incumbent, and Joseph Pitt, Esq.; the former states in the schedule, that he could make no return of the actual value of his income beyond the fixed yearly stipend of £40; the latter declares the living of Bagendon to be worth yearly £200.

The Act is dated June 22, 1816, and in the preamble it is called an Act "for effectuating an exchange of the advowson of the church of the parish of Bagendon, in the county of Gloucester, belonging to Joseph Pitt, Esq., for a right which the principal, fellows, and scholars of Jesus College, within the City and University of Oxford, of the foundation of Queen Elizabeth, have, in the nomination of a curate to the curacy of the Improprate Rectory of Cheltenham, in the said county, also belonging to the said Joseph Pitt."

The Act next proceeds to relate, with much precision, the legal settlement of the affairs of the living by the Hicks family, in the time of Charles the I., in the following words:—"By an agreement in writing, bearing date the twenty-fourth day of March, in the fourth year of the reign of his late Majesty King Charles I., made between the then Lord Viscount Campden, of the first part; Godfrey, then Lord Bishop of Gloucester, of the second part; and Sir Ewble Thelwall, Knt., one of the Masters of his Majesty's High Court of Chancery, Principal, and the Fellows and Scholars of Jesus College, within the City and University of Oxford, of the foundation of Queen Elizabeth, of the third part; that the said Lord Viscount Campden did, for himself and his heirs, give and grant unto the said Ewble Thelwall, Principal, and the Fellows and Scholars of Jesus College, aforesaid, and their successors for ever, the sum of £40 a year, to be issuing out of (and the same was thereby charged upon) all that the said Rectory of Cheltenham, with the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, in trust for the maintenance of the Minister of Cheltenham aforesaid, together with the right of nomination of such Minister, in the manner therein mentioned."



The transfer of the living to Mr. Pitt, follows, with a statement of the legal claim he has upon the pecuniary proceeds of the same. The former privileges of Jesus College are declared to be null and void, so far as the Cheltenham curacy is concerned. "That from and immediately after the passing of this Act, all that the advowson and right of patronage and presentation of, in and to the said Rectory and Parish Church of Bagendon, in the said County and Diocese of Gloucester, shall be vested in and settled upon, and the same is hereby from thenceforth vested in and settled upon the said Principal, Fellows, and Scholars of Jesus College, in the University of Oxford, and their successors, for ever, in lieu of and exchange for their said right in the nomination of a Curate to the Curacy of Cheltenham aforesaid, and of all other their right of patronage and presentation or nomination of, in and to the same Curacy hereinafter expressed, to, be vested in and settled upon the said Joseph Pitt, and his heirs and assigns for ever."

The body of the Act concludes with an explicit statement that Mr. Pitt and his heirs are ever after to have the sole power of nominating a minister to the living, and to pay him annually £40. "That all that the said Curacy shall, from and immediately after the passing of this act, be vested in and settled upon, and the same was and is hereby from thenceforth vested in and settled upon the said Joseph Pitt and his heirs and assigns for ever, to the use of him, the said Joseph Pitt, and his heirs and assigns for ever, freed and for ever discharged from the said right of them the said Principal, Fellows, and Scholars, to nominate a Curate to the said Curacy aforesaid, and all other their right and patronage of, in and to the said Curate, and of and from the said yearly sum of forty-pounds; to the end and intent that he, the said Joseph Pitt, his heirs and assigns, might at all times hereafter fill the said Curacy with such proper person or persons as he or they shall think proper, without being in any manner subject to the restrictions in the said agreement contained, or any of them, in lieu of and in exchange for the said advowson, and right of patronage and presentation of, in and to the said Rectory and Parish Church of Bagendon.

Directly after the passing of this Act, the Rev. J. Simeon (a sketch of whose life was published in a funeral sermon preached by the Rev. F. Close,) with five others purchased the right held

by Mr. Pitt, of electing the minister, for £3000, and invested the powers in the hands of six trustees, who presented the living, which is now styled "a perpetual curacy in the Deanery of Winchcomb," to the Rev. C. Jervis, and after his lamented decease, to the Rev. Close, F. A.M., and upon his elevation to the Deanery of Carlisle, to the Rev. Edward Walker, M.A., the present respected Incumbent. Thus, step by step, have legal enactments effected changes in the right of presentation to the Cheltenham Incumbency of a remarkable character. The very laudable movement set on foot, and mainly supported by the wealth and influence of the Rev. J. Simeon, half a century since, to buy up "next presentations" and place men of known Evangelical sentiments in the vacant livings, have been highly beneficial to this town. The most valuable part of this clerical estate had now passed into different hands. Two vestiges of the ancient Impropriation yet remained undisposed of—the burial ground, which immediately surrounds the Church, and the Chancel with its ground rents and income from the pews and sittings. The parishioners in Vestry assembled in 1806, purchased, for £100, Mr. Pitt's interest in the graveyard (as it stood before the modern part was added by Chester Walk). A rate was levied upon the inhabitants to meet the amount, and, consequently, it will, to all future generations, remain the property of the parish, and has since then been recognised as such by the Paving Commissioners, who have repaired the roads leading through it. For nearly 40 years after this desirable purchase was effected, nothing was heard of the residue of the "lay Impropriation." The matter was again revived by the following announcement, which appeared in all the local newspapers during the month of October, 1845:—"To be peremptorily sold, pursuant to a decree in the High Court of Chancery made in a cause Pitt *versus* Pitt, with the approbation of James William Farrer, Esquire, one of the Masters of the said Court at the Plough Hotel, in Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, on Monday and Tuesday, the 30th and 31st Days of October, 1843, at One o'clock in the Afternoon, on each day in Thirty-two Lots, a portion of the Estates, late of Joseph Pitt, Esq., Deceased, together with the Improprate Rectory of Cheltenham, with the Pews and Sittings in the Chancel of the Church of the said Parish, and Six Perpetual annual Sums or Rent charges of One Pound each."

The purchasers were Messrs. Newman and Gwinnett, solicitors, and in them the lay Impropriation was vested for eighteen years. Thus a singular anomaly presented itself to the public—the body of the Parish Church belonging to the inhabitants, and the Chancel, where the sacred ordinances of the Communion and Baptism are celebrated, in the hands of private individuals! It is, however, our pleasure to record that this complication of circumstances has now ceased to exist. In May, 1861, the Chancel, with all the rights and privileges of the Improprate Rectory, was purchased for the use of the parish, and henceforth, and for ever, it ceases to be private property. Thus, after having been a lay Impropriation since the days of the Reformation (upwards of three hundred years), it now becomes public property, and we recognize, henceforth, a properly constituted “Rectory.” This vestige of an ancient living having thus finally changed hands, unites the past with the present, and supplies the last link in the chain of the history of the Improprate Rectory of Cheltenham.

In reviewing the historical evidences which we have adduced respecting the Rectory, it must be evident that since the establishment of Protestantism, the maintenance of a resident Incumbent has ever been placed upon a most precarious footing. Valuable property, which might have formed a good endowment, has ever been in the hands of private individuals, whilst the congregation of an increasing town has had to struggle with pecuniary difficulties; greater, perhaps, than have been experienced in any poor agricultural village! And had Cheltenham ever remained in obscurity, the same state of things might have continued; for, all that the law now gives is no more than in former times. The maintenance of our Incumbency does not arise from any fixed support. It arises from the fact that the office has been filled latterly by earnest, faithful, and hard-working Evangelical clergymen, who have received their emoluments from the best of all sources—the voluntary contributions of the congregations they have benefited, and who can bear the best testimony to services rendered. This non-endowment of the living has arisen from the circumstance of its rightful property having been bought and sold, and made the subject of worldly traffic. We regret to add that we have discovered similar instances of injury done to the cause of religion by the

same means, in our historical researches in this county. The ill-effects of the system of lay Impropriation may be strikingly illustrated by referring to the Report of the Gloucestershire Diocesan Association, issued in February, 1861. From that document it will be seen that in the county there are 58 livings, the incomes of which are under £100 per annum; 82 benefices where there is no residence for the clergyman; and 63 parishes with no suitable School-room.—“The great injury this rectory has suffered in its revenues, proves the impropriety of fixed payments in lieu of tythes, under acts of inclosure. Supposing the yardland on an average to be 20 acres, it is clear that at this period of improved rents, four yardlands would have been worth at least the whole annual sum allotted, without the tythes.”—(Rudge, 1803.)

“The Rectory is worth £600 per annum; yet the stipend to the officiating minister is not to more than £40, besides surplice fees. Impropriations are such livings as at the dissolution of monasteries were disposed of to the best bidders, or the greatest favourites, and so became lay property. Of about 10,000 churches and chapels now in England, 3835, upwards of one third, are Impropriations.”—*Cheltenham Guide*, 1786.

But not only the Incumbent but the poor of the parish were sufferers by the change. The Manor records, from the earliest date, shows that the inhabitants had the right, which was protected by manorial legislation, of the herbage of all the commonable lands “in Cheltenham fields” for the rearing of “Cows, Swine, and Geese.”

“The crime is great in man or woman  
Who steals a goose from off the common;  
But who can plead that man’s excuse  
Who steals the common from the goose.”

“Previous to the late inclosure, the arable lands within the parish did not exceed 1900 acres; the pasture, 1500 acres.”—(Ruff.) The number of acres which now form the parochial area is 4200. Thus we see that 800 acres of commonable land have passed into private hands. From time immemorial, this was the property of the inhabitants, and as at this period, the place was little better than an agricultural village, it doubtless

afforded the means of subsistence to the poor, and prevented their becoming chargeable to the parish. This is evident from the small amount which was paid for Poor-rates, prior to the Inclosure Act. The local poor were then contained in a House, the rental of which cost £5 per annum, and the Poor-rate, which was then a rate raised for many purposes besides poor relief, was under £200 per annum. The Poor's-rate now averages £20,000, and the cost of poor relief, in the town alone, is £16,000 annually. According to Parliamentary returns, within the past century, nine millions of acres have been taken from the poor by Inclosure Acts.

The first attempt at enclosure of consequence, was made in the reign of Queen Anne; from that period down to the present these unjust acts have been rapidly increasing. From the commencement of Anne's reign to the termination of the reign of George II., there were 234 enclosure acts passed, which took from the poor 339,377 acres. During the reign of George III., there were more than four times the number passed, although the amount of land was not so much in proportion, yet the loss must have been equally as much felt. From the accession to the death of George III., there were 1521 enclosure acts passed, which took in 294,400 acres.—(Goding's History, Leigh).

The small amount which, in former times, was paid to the Incumbent, is further illustrated by a custom which was formerly prevalent. This was the presentation of a New Hat annually to the holder of the living, and if his stipend was only ten pounds a year it was, certainly, a most desirable gift. The poet Shenstone (whose visit to the town will be found recorded in another chapter) was present at the presentation of a hat to the poor incumbent in 1762. He describes the sermon in the morning, the giving of the hat afterwards in accordance to an ancient custom, and adds:—"The hat, it is true, is not quite as valuable as a Cardinal's, but while it is made a retribution for excellence in so, if properly considered, it is an object for a preacher in any degree. I am sorry, at the same time, to say that, as a common hat, merely for its uses, it would be an object to too many country curates, whose situations and slender incomes too often excite our blushes as well as our compassion."—(Hull's Select Letters.)

In order to place the living of Cheltenham on a more permanent footing, a subscription was set on foot to purchase a Parsonage House, to be the residence of the Incumbent for the time being. This appeal was cordially responded to, and all the legal deeds of conveyance were presented by the solicitor to the parishioners, at the Annual Easter Vestry Meeting, in 1861:—"Mr. Gwinnett, as one of the members, and on behalf of the committee of Inhabitants, who promoted the purchase of a Parsonage House to be permanently attached to the Parish Church of St. Mary, Cheltenham, for the residence of the Incumbent for the time being, stated to the Vestry that that object had been accomplished, and that the dwelling-house, No. 8, in the Royal Crescent, had been fully conveyed accordingly to, and was now vested in, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. And that a sum of £114 1s. 9d., being the balance of the monies subscribed for the purpose, after paying all expenses, had been invested in the purchase of the sum of one hundred and twenty three pounds sixteen shillings and tenpence, Three Pounds per Cent. Consols, in the names of trustees upon trust, to apply the income thereof, exclusively for the purpose of the external repairs of the Parsonage House. And Mr. Gwinnett tendered to the Vestry the Deed declaring the trusts of the above fund, and other documents relating to the purchase of the property and of the fixtures therein, which were ordered to be deposited for preservation in the parish chest."—(*Cheltenham Examiner*.)

The £40 per annum, as before detailed, is the only endowment for the support of the Rectory in the present day. The Incumbent is entitled to fees for burial in the morning, for the erection of monuments, for marriages and baptism, and for Easter Offerings. This latter item has been for some years past the principal source of income, and, being of a voluntary character, is necessarily fluctuating. In the last parliamentary return, the living is entered as worth £700 per annum.

There are several parochial as well as spiritual privileges which custom has given to the Incumbent. The election of his own Churchwarden on Easter Tuesday; the parishioners also electing one for themselves, and on several occasions the minister has waived his right and the parish have elected both officers. The right to choose, nominate, and appoint his parish Clerk and Sexton was admitted at Vestry Meetings held in 1754.

The present Incumbent, the Rev. E. Walker, M.A., was formerly connected with Salford and Manchester. The *Manchester Advertiser*, in noticing his removal in 1857, observes:—"We have to announce that the Rev. E. Walker, M.A., at present the Incumbent of St. Matthias Church, Broughton-road, has been offered and has accepted the Incumbency of Cheltenham, vacant by the appointment of the Rev. F. Close, to the Deanery of Carlisle. We are glad that, in a more extended and useful sphere, Mr. Walker will have an opportunity of displaying those admirable qualities as a gentleman and a Christian minister, which, it is but simple truth to say, have won for him the most cordial esteem and regard, wherever he has been known in Manchester. We congratulate the inhabitants of Cheltenham on Mr. Walker's acceptance of the Incumbency, and when they come to know him, as we know him in Manchester, they will congratulate themselves upon possessing such a head of the clerical body in their town."

The Patrons of the Cheltenham Incumbency are the Trustees under the Simeon purchase:—The Rev. Dr. Marsh, the Rev. W. Carus, the Rev. John Venn, the Rev. Edward Holland, and the Rev. Edward Auriol.

THE CHURCH DOCUMENTS.—In the Parish Church Vestry are preserved many documents of the deepest interest connected with the ancient history of Cheltenham, and which also corroborate many important historical events of a national character. In the iron chest, in the vestry of our Parish Church, is a parchment book of about a foot square, containing a list of the marriages, deaths, and christenings, from the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the reign of William and Mary. The year is generally placed on the top of the page, and so few were there to record that, not unfrequently, the marriages, deaths, and christenings, for three years, are contained in one page. In some years, in the reign of Charles II. and James II., in particular, there are not above three weddings, six deaths, and one christening recorded. The same book also contains all the Welch Bachelors who have held the Cheltenham living since the days of Charles II., and the list has been continued by succeeding churchwardens down to the election of the present Incumbent. The greater portion of the more ancient of our local records are preserved in a chest of very great antiquity, and which is alluded

to incidentally in records belonging to the Elizabethan era. It is about ten feet in length and three feet in width, secured with three locks, and surrounded by a massive iron bar. It appears to have been hewn out of a single oak tree, and is of so durable a character that centuries will probably yet elapse ere the work of decay will commence. On the 4th of October, 1843, this old relic was removed from its hiding place, beneath an elevated pew, where it had been suffered, for many a year, to lie unobserved and almost forgotten, in the presence of the Churchwardens and the Committee of Enquiry into our local charities. On being opened, the following inscription appeared on the massive lid in gold letters :—" Repaired by Walter Cox and John Humphris, churchwardens, A.D., 1745." The chest was entirely filled with documents, principally written on parchment ; among the number may be enumerated the following :—Indentures of parish apprentices, commencing with the reign of James I., indentures of apprentices, of about the same date, belonging to the charities especially bequeathed for binding out apprentices belonging to parents who resided in the town ; copies of wills of persons who have left charitable bequests to the parish ; leases of grounds belonging to the local charities, commencing with the year 1693 ; the various records of the census of the population of this district, some of them being arranged on a single sheet of foolscap writing paper ; a numerous collection of old poor-rate books, some of them not larger than a penny memorandum book of the present day, and yet containing all the poor-rates then collected, with the names of the payers, and all the necessary particulars ; a curious old vestry book, of folio size (and although the covers have, apparently, been a long time lost from it, in very good preservation,) the entries commencing October 17, 1637, the 11th year of the reign of Charles I., and ending May 17, 1724, the tenth year of the reign of George I. From the writing, we are of opinion that the recorder was the minister for the time being, for, in many instances, the signature of the minister attached is precisely the same as the minutes recorded. The book is taken up principally with accounts of the annual election of Churchwardens, and the property then contained in the church, which was given on trust to the newly elected officers. These lists of the property, year after year, are carefully arranged in parallel lines, like the catalogue of a modern auctioneer. We



here transcribe from this curious book a *verbatim* copy of one of the oldest of these lists, in the precise form in which it is entered, without any alteration of the orthography :—

IN YE YOARE OF OUR LORD GOD 1638.

Upon Monday in ye Estor weeke was chosen for Churchwardens for ye yoare following : videe, John Parker, Henry Maior, Pingard Mederith, John Agmoad. And unto those Churchwardens was giuen an account of ye Church goods by the former Churchwardens uppon the 21st day of Meay in the yoare above written before divers of the parishioners ye partikulars thereof are as followoth :

Communion Cup on Silver Guilt and a cover of Silver guilt.

Dish of Silver guilt, and holland baggs to put ye plate in.

Pewter flaggon of two quarts.

One Goblet Poule.

One paire of fyne green carpets wrought we niddle worke.

Paire of flaxon Sheets.

Paire of hurdon Sheets.

Flaxon Table Cloth.

Two long Towels.

Crimson Clothe for ye Pulpit.

One ould Communion Cloth for ye table.

One wooden cushion for ye Pulpitt.

An Hour Glass.

An old druggit.

2 Surplesses. 2 Leathern Bucketts.

One groate Bible One horn Lantern.

Common praier Book.

Ould sorrows book.

Booke of Martyrs.

Booke called Erasmus.

Booke of souls worked in a duet.

Books of Gammalial.

Two bookes, registers for Christenings and burials.

Four ould chests and iron bar thereunto.

Wrighting booke for the Church accompts.

Other wrighting booke for ye Poor accompts.

One ladder contayning 21 rounds.

One Cratch or Cradle, to poynt ye Church Steeple withe.

One Caple rope, worth about thirtie shillings.

Five fovrnes, and Communion Table in ye chancel.

Wooden Stowl in ye Tower.

One foot mount for ye Pulpitt, given by Rd. Robinson.

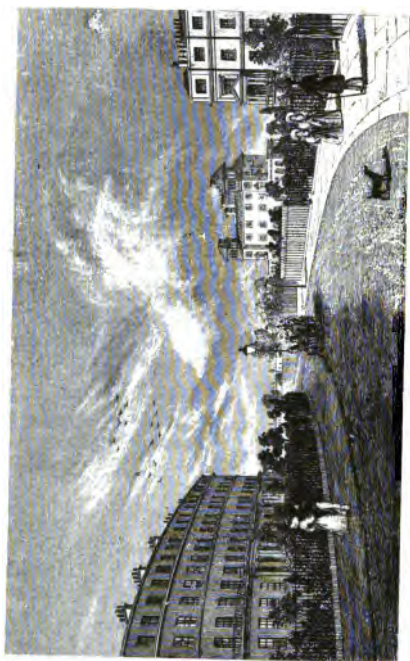
One more faire cushion for Pulpitt of plad white in niddle work.

One flaggon of about 5 quarts.

One pewter and dish.

Four branch iron candlesticks joynted.





LANSDOWN CRESCENT, CHELTENHAM.

Two boxes to collect money.

One pair of pulleys.

2 boards with one cover.

Two wainscot benches in ye vestry and one table cord there.

One booke of Cannons, and two joynted stools.

With this catalogue was an entry of 1s. 9d., the amount of "Church Money" then in the hands of the Churchwardens, which, it is recorded, was handed over to the newly-elected officers. For full a century and a half after this date, the Churchwardens were elected on Easter Monday, and a catalogue (very similarly arranged on the vestry book to the above) was presented to them. In 1640, it is stated that Richard Dodwell, of London, grocer, left £5 for the purchase of the Book of Martyrs, which was to be lent out to the inhabitants generally. Appended to the parish minutes for the above year, is a copy of the will containing the bequest, the following brief extract from which, will explain the intentions of the donor:—"I give and bequeath to the parish of Cheltenham five pounds, to buy therewith the Book of Martyrs, contained in three volumes, to be put in some convenient part of the said parish church, on some little furniture, with a fastening to each volume, that the same may be freed, and in common for all to read at convenient times . . . The said book to be lent out by the Churchwardens and their successors to any one poore inhabitant housekeeper of the said town." The first entry of the election of Surveyors of the Highways at a vestry meeting, is the 21st December, 1675, when two were elected for the town, and three for the hamlets. "The days appointed for ye worke to be done," were Tuesdays and Fridays in each week. After this time, the election took place annually. The following very curious entry is made of one of these meetings:—"December 26, 1721 —Whereas, at a Vestry Meeting, holden this day, it was found by the inhabitants that Thomas Nichols and Richard Ellis, the last year's Surveyors for the Highways, had not collected so much as they had disbursed by £2 by reason of taking to little money of the substantial inhabitants of the towne. We therefore elect them to serve for the said office for this next year, and by the consent of this vestry they are not to exceed the expenses of 20 shillings for *Ale*." Following the order of date, the following entries occur:—

- 1697.—“And in this yeare now read, all ye Bells in the parish church of Cheltenham into 8 bells by Abraham Rudhall, bellfounder in Gloucester, and in ye same yeare was all ye old money called in and new coyned in the 8 & 9 yeare of the reign of William and Mary; the frame of ye bells were likewise altered and new made by Giles Ashmead, of Cheltenham, carpenter.”
- 1713.—“This yeare the Minister and Churchwardens collected of several well disposed persons the sum of £14 for the buying of a silver flaggon for the use of the communion, which same was applied accordingly. — Henry Mease, Minister.”
- 1714.—“This yeare was given to the Minister by a *secret* hand a Damask Table Cloth for the service of the communion.”
- 1721.—“It was then agreed by the joynt consent of a vestry then held, that the fourth seat from the Minister pews, which seat hath for many years past been used for churching of women, shall be given to Toby Sturmeys and his heys, in consideration that the said Toby Sturmeys shall make up a seat in the said aisle south of the church, which seat shall be in future appropriated for christnings and churching of women.”

In the Register are some very curious entries by the Minister, for the time being, as for example :—

“A.D. 1698, Received of Thos. Cox, three shillings and four pence for a sermon preached on ye parable of ye Sower Feb. 23, 1698, according to the last Will and Testament of Thos. George who died in ye yeare 1629. I say received by me

KEU PULEGSTON,  
Curate.”

According to Thos. George's Will the Sermon might be preached on ye Sower in St. Mathew's Gospel, chap. 13-iii., any time in ye Sowing season.”

According to the Charity Commissioners Report, this bequest was regularly paid to the Incumbent up to the period the Rev. C. Jervis was inducted to the living.

The visitation of Earthquakes and Storms is also recorded :—

1795.—Nov.—“On the 11th of this month, between the hours of 11 and 12 at night, a severe Shock of an Earthquake was sensibly felt in this place and neighbourhood.”

Cheltenham was again visited by the shock of an earthquake on Nov. 9, 1852, at 4.30, a.m.

1703.—Nov. 27th.—“Cheltenham visited by a Great Storm of Wind, which injured the Parish Church and most of the dwelling houses. A terrible tempestuous wind on the 27th days of November, about ye hours of one to seven in ye morning, which did very great damage, both at sea and alsoe in land, to the ruined of very many families.”

1731.—June 5.—“The Town visited by a terrific Hail Storm, which, for its duration and destructive power, stands unparalleled in modern history. This hail storm destroyed upwards of £2000 worth of property in Cheltenham,—a large amount compared with the small number of houses and inhabitants at that period.”

There are entries in the Register of a domestic character which deserve notice. The birth of the twentieth child is recorded :—“1790, July 8. Ester, daughter of William Fowler and Hannah his wife—being her twentieth child :” and a marriage by the Rev. J. Close, the father of the Dean of Carlisle, when on a visit during his connection with St. John's College, Oxford. There is one entry of great historical interest, and the publication of which, by Mr. J. O. Halliwell, the well-known commentator of Shakespeare, has tended to render the church register an important national document. The immortal Shakespeare applied the word “Sir” in the same sense as “Reverend” is now used to designate those who are set apart for the Ministry. It was long a debateable point whether the immortal bard meant to describe the clerical character by the title of “Sir,” although it is clear from his contemporaries that, after the Reformation, that epithet was applied, and preceded the modern reverend. The church register cleared the matter up, for the poor perpetual curates, whose stipends were barely sufficient to maintain them, were entered in the list of burials as “Sir”—the first entry occurring on August 31st, 1574, “of Sir John Evans, curate of Cheltenham.”

## CHAPTER XII.

*The Town During the Civil Wars.*

**D**URING the memorable struggle that occurred between the adherents of King Charles I., and Oliver Cromwell, the town of Cheltenham was most deeply engaged. This arose partly from its position as adjoining the road from Stow-on-the-Wold, which then passed by Hewletts, and along the back of the town. The armies of both parties, in coming across the Cotswolds had, therefore, to march through the place on their way to Gloucester, which was in a state of siege. Another reason why the borough was the scene of battle was, the fact of its manorial possessor being a warm partizan of the Royalists. The Steward of the Manor, John Stubbes, a man of considerable legal and literary abilities, was also on the side of Royalty, and the reigning monarch did not scruple to ask him for pecuniary assistance in the hour of need, as will be apparent from the documents which are quoted in this Chapter.

The Dutton family (with one exception), who were then the owners of the Cheltenham Manor, were royalists, and took a very active part in all the political movements of the times. For this they suffered severely, by the loss of their property and by imprisonment. Colonel Dutton was expelled the House of Commons for his adherence to the King. Sir Ralph Dutton had his estate sequestered, and he was forced to quit the country. John Dutton was taken prisoner by the Republicans, and conveyed to London, and he afterwards redeemed his estate by paying Cromwell a large sum of money. In "A catalogue of the Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen who have compounded for their Estates; London, printed for T. Dring, at the signe of the George, in Fleet Street, 1655"—occurs this entry:—"John Dutton, of Sherborn, Glouc, Esq., £5216 04 00." An elder brother, John Dutton, "was probably against the royalists, he had so good an opinion of Oliver Cromwell, or the stability of his protection, that, dying in 1656, he appointed him guardian to his only son." —(Washbourne.)

Another person, of wealth and local influence, was also a most enthusiastic supporter of the Throne. This was Sir B. Hicks, whose family was so long allied by purchase to the Cheltenham Rectory. This nobleman manifested his attachment to such an extent that he set fire to his mansion rather than it should become a place of shelter to the Republican army. This act appears the more extraordinary when it is considered that the building cost £30,000. With persons of influence, such as these, Royalty met with valiant support. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at, that the town should have been regarded as a stronghold of monarchy, and become exposed to the attacks of the Republicans. More especially that it was the only place that sided with Charles in the locality—Gloucester and Tewkesbury favouring the claims of Oliver Cromwell; the Presbyterians being then the largest body of Religious professors in those towns, the members and supporters of Church and State forming but a mere section of the population.

Among the names of the commanders who distinguished themselves on the side of the King, occur those of Colonel H. Norwood, Lord of the Manor of Leckhampton, and an ancestor of the Trye family; Captain Conway Whithorne, of the Whithorne Lovesey family, of Charlton Kings; he defended the monarch in all his local struggles, was present at the surrender of Worcester in 1646, and served under Charles II. at the Battle of Worcester in 1651; Sir Thomas and Sir John Byron, ancestors of the great poet Lord Byron, who resided in Cheltenham in 1812, and whose descendants have done so since—the Rev. J. Byron having also, for many years, held the adjacent vicarage of Elmstone Hardwick; Sir R. Ducie, of Woodchester, “who had the honour of being made banker to Charles I., whereby he lost £80,000;” the Marquis of Worcester, of the Beaufort family, who defended “the last garrison that held out for the King;” and Sir R. Lawrence, of the family of that name at the Greenway, Shurdington. Among the number was the owner of the once celebrated Cubberley Hall, which was located but a short distance from the “Seven Springs.” In Shaw’s “Topographer,” are engravings representing Cubberley Hall and the Parsonage-house, in the days of their glory. The Hall is represented with a large court-yard filled with pages in martial costume. During the memorable period of the Civil Wars,



Cubberley was the property of Sir Thomas Pope, Earl of Downe, a most zealous partizan of Charles I. That unfortunate monarch visited the Earl, and was entertained with great pomp, on two separate occasions, at the Manor-house. The first visit was made on November 6, 1643, and the second on July 12, 1644, at a time when his army were actively engaged at Cheltenham and Gloucester in defending his right to the Crown against the growing power of a Cromwell.

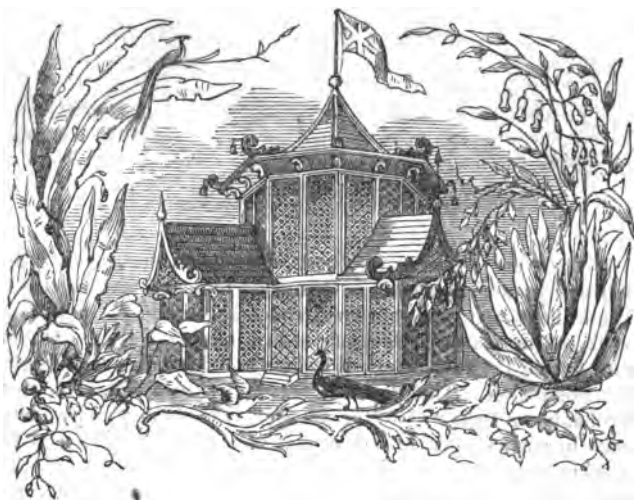
Discoveries have from time to time been made which prove that Cheltenham has been the seat of war. In 1823, when the spot so long known as "Jessop's Nursery," consisting of about twenty acres, was first cultivated, a quantity of skeletons were found by the workmen. From that period down to the past few years, similar relics of death have been turned up, and no deep excavation has been made without bringing to light some portions of the human frame. On the same property have also been found bullets, coins of the Commonwealth and of Charles I. In 1827, when the foundation was being dug out for the Infants' School-room in St. James's Square, and also when the houses in St. James's Square, Grove Street, Bethel Chapel, the old Catholic Chapel, and St. George's square, were in course of erection, human bones were exhumed in abundance which would lead to the conclusion that the scene of the engagement was one of considerable extent. Similar relics were also found in a garden in the occupation of Mr. Jones, which has since been converted into "The Avaries" by Jessop Brothers.

The *Cheltenham Chronicle*, of Feb. 13, 1817, records the finding of what were doubtless relics of the battle field. This was in a garden belonging to Mr. Beavan, chemist, in the High-street. About two feet below the surface, were found masses of nearly perfect skeletons without any vestiges of coffins.

"During the past week, the remains of various skeletons have been discovered in the extensive nursery grounds of Mr. C. H. Jessop in this town. The discovery was made while excavating for sand near the residence of Mr. Jessop, at a short distance, near the front entrance to the ground in St. James's-square. From the heaped position in which they were found, as well as their gigantic size and decayed appearance, there can be but little doubt that they were the remains of a portion of the army

which perished during the memorable period of the Civil Wars.

During the occupancy of the garden by Mr. Jessop, a great



number of the remains of very similar skeletons have been excavated; the circumstances of their being associated with various implements of warfare, coins of Charles I., and soldiers buttons of a similar date, afford a clear evidence as to the date of interment. The remains of a pistol, found near the entrance from the Bayshell estate, has a curious revolving wheel attached (a class of pistols that ceased to be used after the Commonwealth era,) and is now in the possession of Mr. Hollis, gunmaker, of this town. The garden where these numerous remains have been from time to time discovered, was doubtless the spot on which an engagement took place between the partizans of Oliver Cromwell and those of Charles I."—*Cheltenham Free Press*, Nov. 18th 1843.

Our illustration represents the spot referred to in the account where these relics were exhumed.



“There are relics of the battle-field concealed beneath this fair and beauteous surface. Grim skeletons and instruments of death, have been, and still are, frequently disinterred from their dark resting-places. Cheltenham had been the King’s Manor, and during the Civil Wars, Royalists and Roundheads struggled for possession. The Republicans, who skirmished here, were probably on their way to the relief of Gloucester; and we have seen in a newspaper, in the account of a recent discovery by the workmen on the Dean Forest Railway, another record of that memorable siege. As they were sinking for ballast gravel, on a part of the estate of T. G. Parry, Esq., at Highnam, near Gloucester, they disinterred twelve skeletons, all apparently the remains of full-grown men. Some of these skeletons were lying confusedly, as if the bodies to which they belonged, had been rather carelessly consigned to their common grave; but others, and one in particular, had evidently been respectfully interred, and the coffins, formed of blocks of Painswick stone, had been built round them. ‘It is conjectured,’ says the editor, ‘that they were the bodies of some of the officers and soldiers, who fell at the siege of Gloucester, during the civil wars between Charles I. and his Parliament.’—(Letters on Cheltenham.)

In June, 1861, a gold siege piece, of great rarity, was dug up :—

“A large gold piece, of the reign of Charles I., was found at Charlton, on Wednesday last, in the brickfield belonging to Mr. W. Smith, builder, of Oxford-passage, in this town. The

discovery was made while excavating clay at a depth of two feet below the surface. It is in Mr. Smith's possession, and is in the finest state of preservation—the outline being as perfect as when first issued from the mint. It is rather larger than a half-crown of the present time, and appears to have been made of unalloyed gold. It is a fine specimen of what is known to antiquarians as a 'Siege piece.' It bears the Oxford mint mark, which links it with the history of the town during the Civil Wars. At the time this piece was struck at Oxford, Cheltenham was besieged by Oliver Cromwell. The unfortunate Charles then held his parliament at Oxford, and one of his warmest partizans in this neighbourhood was John Stubbes, then Steward of the Manor, who resided in the parish where this relic has been found. Charles, when Prince of Wales, was Lord of the Manor of Cheltenham, and the beautiful gold memorial now brought to light, in addition to the crown of England, has also upon it a device of the Prince of Wales feathers, and his coronet. On the obverse is a bust of Charles in his coronation robes, surrounded with the inscription—CAROLUS, D. G. MAG, F.r.g.h. J. B. REX. On the reverse, an escutcheon compartment, surrounded with two crowns, and bearing on the margin the words, FLORENT, CONCORD, REGNIA C. R.

"A curious fact concerned with this discovery is, that Charles would appear to have been in exceedingly straightened circumstances at the time this piece was coined. For we find in GODING'S CHELTENHAM that letters are extant written about this time by Charles to his steward, Mr. Stubbes, of Charlton, begging the loan of "twenty pounds," and suggesting that if he had not the amount in coin he should send up his plate, as the King's necessities were urgent. Mr. Stubbes resided in a house very near the spot where the gold piece was found; and the discovery and its attendant circumstances are of peculiar interest as illustrating the connexion between Royalty and this town, between two and three centuries ago, and the important scenes enacted in this neighbourhood during the Civil War, which ended in the execution of the monarch and the establishment of a commonwealth in these realms. The cause of these 'Siege pieces' being made of much purer gold than the ordinary coin, is supposed to be that they were made without alloy

from the gold plate which the leiges supplied to the distressed monarch in the hour of his necessities."—*Cheltenham Examiner*, June 19, 1861.

In July, 1861, a man digging in a garden in Victoria-street, a short distance from the surface, turned up a copper coin of Charles I. (in the author's possession.) It is similar to many others that have been found, and we give it a passing notice here in order to illustrate the abundance of local memorials that abound belonging to this period. During the time the foundations were being dug out for the houses which form the termination of Imperial-square, opposite to Cambray Spa, portions of pistols, buttons, and coins, belonging to the Royalists, were brought to light.

Numerous are the records extant of this memorable civil contest. Writers belonging to both parties issued, periodically, in some instances daily, accounts of the progress of the war. We here give extracts from these curious narratives, which will unfold the scenes that were enacted at Cheltenham and its neighbourhood.

"The general fame did increase and heighten the repute of Sir William Waller, and the enemy possessed therewith, began to draw back on all sides; Sir Mathew Carew forthwith quitted the town of Tewkesbury, which, within twelve hours, was repossessed by our forces. Our party had no sooner saluted the town, but received an alarm that the former forces were returned with greater power. 'Twas a gallant brigade of horse, commanded by the Lord Grandison, which immediately came from Cheltenham, whereof our men had not the least intelligence."—(Corbet's Gloucester.)

"Sept. the 5, 1643. We advanced to Prestbury, within sight of Gloucester. This evening the Lord General was fain to fight for his quarter, and beat the enemy out of it at a Market town called Cheltenham. The next morning, September 6, our soldiers came down from Prestbury Hill into the village, being wet to the very skin, but could get little or no refreshing, every house being so full of soldiers: the cavaliers were in the town but the day before. We staid here but two or three hours that morning: our soldiers began to complain pitifully, being even worn out quite spent for want of some refreshing, some complaining that they had not eat or drank for two days, some longer time. Yesterday, the enemy raised their siege from before Gloucester; this day our two regiments of the Trained

Bands marched to a little village called Norton, three miles wide of Gloucester, and four miles from Tewkesbury, where our soldiers had so reasonable accommodation and refreshment. On Nov. 21st, the noble Lord Chandos had intelligence brought him yesterday at Sudeley Castle, that the rebels of Gloucester intended to be that day at Cheltenham, to receive the contributions of that Hundred, and the rents of Master Dutton, Lord of the place (Lord of the Manor). Upon this notice my Lord Chandos took with him 120 horse, and 100 foot, and marched presently to Cheltenham, where, finding the rebels, he quickly fell upon them, killed half a score, and took twenty-two, whereof ten were of Colonel Massey's commissary, and was, indeed, to have been the receiver of these rents, and the peoples contribution, which his Lordship prevented by sending Master Receiver and his twenty two prisoners to Oxford, where they now are delivered to the Provost Marshall General, to the great delight of the country people, who by these means are freed from their new landlords. On Nov. 25th, Colonel Massey summoned divers carts to meet him at Cheltenham to carry away the goods of the town." (A true and exact Relation of the Marchings of the Two Regiments of the Train Bands of the City of London, in 1643).

"Sunday, Sept. 3rd. The lord generall's horse pursued them, bravely fell upon them, and had a skirmish with them, and his own regiment of foot charged them in front, and fired four roaring pieces at them, whereupon they all rode hastily away and our forces fired upon them. How many were slain I cannot certainly relate, but we took divers prisoners, who say, that the Lord Holland was amongst them, and that Prince Rupert when he saw our army swore he thought all the Round-heads in England were there. Their word was "King and Country;" ours "Religion;" which proved the best of the three in the end. After marching on route through Cheltenham, "The next day our Londoners were appointed to quarter in a towne called Prestbury, within six miles of Gloucester, where the cavaliers then lay, as soon as ever we appeared in site of the towne, on the edge of the hill in sight of Gloucester, they drew out into a corne field and faced us again; our forlorne hope descended down upon them, and as soon as they were at the bottom of the hill, our generall let the four pieces of ordnance at

them, whereupon they fled as fast as their horses could carry them, but we stayed some of them by the way, and sold their Welsh hobbies for ten shillings a piece."

"From which siege the southern popish army is risen through feare, for they durst not stay to view the London apprentices that were marched through Cheltenham under the lorde generall the Earle of Essex within six miles of Gloucester, for their reliefe; markets are kept in Gloucester, ammunition sent, cavaliers retreated, the queene for very grieffe frightened." "Our scout finds the way so impassable, by reason of the scattered troops of the enemy, scattered not by any defeat given by my lord generall, but to prevent supplies, and hinder his excellency from sending to the parliament a report of the Siege &c., for as his excellency had a braver and quicker recruiter from the city, so, doubtless, he will leave no means untried to let them understand of his good success, and though his packets are stopped, there are clothiers come eminent for their honesty who tell us that they were in Gloucester since the reliefe of it."

"Monday, Sept. 4.—The last week's informations related how farre his excellency the parliaments lord generall was advanced to the relief of Gloucester, viz, that on Thursday last he was about Bicester, in Oxfordshire, where we then left him to proceed. On Friday his excellency drew up all his army at Bayard's Green, on the plain of Bichester, from whence the army marched towards Chipping Norton, so that it is conceived, he might be as farre as Cheltenham this night, which lieth about seven miles from Gloucester."

"Friday, Sept. 8.—Some of the Gloucestershire Clothiers that are lately come out of that county, report that on Saturday and Sunday last, came to assault Gloucester, and got within pistol shot. One of them affirmeth that he saw his excellency the parliament's lord generall on Sunday night last at Sherborne, which is Master Dutton's house (the Lord of the Cheltenham Manor), and lieth five miles from Stow."

"Sept. 12.—The last week's news of the raising of the siege and the relieving of Gloucester is now confirmed by some that are come from there; that they saw a great market kept there on Wednesday and Thursday last, which argues that there is free ingresse and egresse in that city. And, whereas it has been reported that the lord generall hath been there in person, it is

now informed that he came not within six miles of it, but lay about Cheltenham." — *Parliamentary Newsbookes*, 1643. (Republican).

"Monday, Sept. 5.—His Excellency advanced and came to Prestbury Hills, where he drew up his whole army in view of the city of Gloucester, and discharged four pieces of great ordnance to give them notice of his approach; soon after we discovered the enemy's quarters on fire, for upon our advance, they deserted the seige, and marched away all that night in fear and disorder, the rear guard of our army, some ordnance and ammunition, stayed on the top of the hills by reason of the steepness thereof, darkness of the night, and tempestuousness of the weather, whereby, besides the famine, the whole army had, for three days march before, extremely suffered, through a country that the enemy had already destroyed; and that night, through the violence of cold and rain, divers of their horses died. His Excellency, with the rest of the army quartered that night below the hill at Prestbury. The next day, being Wednesday, his Excellency marching to Cheltenham, the enemy fell into the quarters of Colonel Dalbeirs regiment, but having the alarm, soon retired with little loss. The next day, being Thursday, the enemy beat up the quarters of Col. Beere's and Col. Goodwin's regiment; the loss was not considerable, only Major Bora charging the enemy very bravely, to make retreat for the rest, there lost his standard, lieutenant, and cornet, taken prisoners. His Excellency staid at Cheltenham till Friday, and then marched with his whole army to Gloucester, where he continued until Sunday, furnishing the town with ammunition, money, and other necessaries. In all these removes since our army came down the hills, the enemy avoided quartering near us, lying at Sudeley when we were at Gloucester; and when we came to Tewkesbury, and advanced with part of our forces to Upton, they marched with their army to Evesham, and towards Worcester, ten miles, at least, from us; whereby it appears how true it is that they pursued ten days to seek battle. On Friday morning his Excellency arose with his whole army from Tewkesbury, intending to quarter that night at Cheltenham, but upon advertisement that a body of the enemies were then in Cirencester, our want of necessaries and victuals still increasing upon us, his Excellency made a long march with the vanguard



of the army, to fall upon them, which he did about one of the clock of the night, sending a party of horse to seize upon the sentinels and guards, whilst we, with the rest of the horse, begirt the town. We took there forty loads of victuals, which, under God's providence, was the preservation of the army till the day that we fought the great Battle of Newbury: there were taken six standards, all the officers except the two Colonels, who were absent, with divers other gentlemen of quality, above three hundred common soldiers and four hundred horse." (A true relation of the late Expedition of his Excellency, Robert Earl of Essex, ordered by the Commons, Oct. 7th, 1643.)

"On the 4th September, near Stow-in-the-Wold, a smart skirmish happened with Prince Rupert, who attacked Essex with about 4000 horse, and still appeared before the parliament's army as they marched on, for many miles together. On the 5th September, Essex advanced to Prestbury Hills, drew up his whole army in view of the city of Gloucester, and soon after discovered the King's camp on fire, they having deserted the siege. The general himself marched to Cheltenham; but the King's forces often skirmished with him, and beat up his quarters."—(Rushworth, Clerk to the House of Commons, 1640.)

Perhaps at no period were the weak-minded monarch and his adherents more in need of aid than just prior to the threatened invasion of the Scotch, in 1643. His own private purse had long been exhausted, and also the property of the nobles who followed him from town to town and field to field. The King's Parliament at that year was assembled at Oxford, and, as a last resource, it was deemed expedient to apply to different persons, throughout the kingdom, for small sums of money or plate, by way of loan. Amongst the number to whom application was made in this trying case, was John Stubbes (before alluded to), residing at Charlton Kings, who was steward of that and also of Cheltenham manor. He was urgently solicited to lend the sum of £20, or the same value in plate, and the ministers of Charles I. "promised to repay as soon as God shall enable." This curious petition is preserved on the Manorial records by the indefatigable Prinn, and we here publish it. The king doubtless felt that he had some claim upon the kindly feelings of Stubbes. He had not long previous sold the Manor of Cheltenham to the Sherborne family; both

before and after the sale, Stubbes was the Steward, and in soliciting pecuniary aid he addressed himself to one to whom he was personally known.

“ CHARLES REX.

“Trusty and well beloved, we greet you well. Whereas all our subjects of our kingdom of England and dominion of Wales, are, both by their allegiance and the act of pacification bound to resist and suppress all such of our subjects of Scotland as have in a hostile manner already entered, or shall hereafter enter into this kingdom. And by law your personal service, attended in a warlike manner, for the resistance of this invasion, may be required by us, which we desire to spare, choosing rather to invite your assistance in the maintenance of our army in a free and voluntary expression of you affections to our service, and the safety of this kingdom. And whereas the members of both houses of Parliament, assembled at Oxford, have taken into their consideration the necessity of supporting our army for the defence of us and all our people against this invasion, and for the preservation of the religion, laws, and liberties, of this kingdom; and thereupon have agreed upon the speedy rising of the sum of one hundred thousand pounds, by loans from particular persons, towards the which themselves have advanced very considerable proportions, and by their examples hope their well-affected subjects throughout the kingdom will in short time make up the remainder, whereby we shall not only be enabled to pay and to recruit our army, but likewise be enabled to put our armies in such a condition as our subjects shall not suffer by free quarter or the unruliness of our soldiers, which is now in present agitation, and will, we no way doubt, by the advice of the members of both houses assembled, be speedily effected. We do, towards so good a work, by the approbation and advice of the said members of both houses assembled, desire you forthwith to *lend us twenty pounds*, or the value thereof in plate; toucht plate at five shillings, untoucht plate at four shillings and four pence, per ounce, and to pay or deliver the same within seven days after the receipt thereof to the hands of the high sheriff of that our county, or to such whom he shall appoint to receive the same, who is forthwith to return and pay the same at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, to the hands of the Earl of

Bath, Lord Seymour, Mr. John Ashbournham, and Mr. John Pettipiece, or any of them who are appointed Treasurers for the receiving of the same and issuing thereof by the said members, by whose order the said money is only to be disposed, and to give receipts for the same, the which WE PROMISE TO REPAY as soon as God will enable us. The sum to be advanced with speed. We are necessitated to apply ourselves to such persons as yourself, of whose liability and affection we have confidence, giving you this further assurance, that in such further charges that the necessity of our just defence shall enforce us to require of our good subjects, your forwardness and disbursements shall be considered to your best advantage, and so presuming you will not fail to express your affection herein, we bid you farewell.—Given at our court at Oxford, the 14th day of February, in the nineteenth year of our reign 1643.

“By the advice of the members of both houses assembled at Oxford.

“ED. LITTLETON, L. S.

“Gloucester

“SIMP. EYRE, L. S.

“To John Stubbes, of Charlton Kings.”

A more humiliating request was never, we should presume, sent from any monarch or his ministers, to a subject, than the one which is contained in this ancient local record. The Parliament alluded to at Oxford consisted of the friends of the king alone. After it had received supplies and voted them away, it was dissolved, and never after re-assembled. It was composed of about two hundred members—less than half the number of the Parliament sitting at the same time in Westminster.

Another local record by Prinns is a letter addressed to the Monarch by his Queen, and its contents show the difficult position which royalty was placed in, being not only harrassed by public men but by his own domestic circle:—

QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA TO HER HUSBAND, CHARLES I., A.D. 1646.—“The folly is so great, that I do not understand it. Delays have always ruined you. As to your answer on the militia, I would believe that you will not consent to pass it for two years, as I understand you will be pressed to do, and that



THE CRESCENT, CHELTENHAM.



you will refuse it. But, perhaps, it is already done; you are beginning again your old game of yielding everything. For my own consolation, however, I will hope the contrary, till I hear the decision; for I confess that if you do it, you ruin me in ruining yourself; and that, could I have believed it, I should never have quitted England; for my journey is rendered ridiculous by what you do, having broken all the resolutions that you and I had taken, except of going where you are and that to do nothing. I send you this man express, hoping that you will not have passed the militia bill. If you have, I must think about retiring for the present into a convent, for you are no longer capable of protecting any one, not even yourself."

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### CHAPTER XIII.

#### Local Tobacco Plantations.

CHELLENHAM was once as celebrated for the quantity and quality of the Tobacco, which its inhabitants reared, as it now is for its Mineral Waters and Educational Establishments. The applicability of the climate for the cultivation of this fashionable weed is fully demonstrated by the free manner in which the plant still grows in our local gardens.

Our town, during the period of its prosperity in the monastic era, appears to have shared in the trade of its day; and even after the time of the Civil Wars, in the Commonwealth period, it seems to have been a place noted for its Tobacco Plantations. This is certainly a singular and striking fact. To a traveller who visited this "Queen of Watering Places" two centuries ago, how strange a sight must have been presented to his view!—a few houses with a running stream in their front forming the High-street, and the land on either side planted out with tobacco.

An account of Cheltenham and its ancient tobacco plantations is given in a work of rare, costly, and national character. It

is of a large folio size, embellished with a number of highly-finished engravings, and devoted to an account of all the places known in the reign of Charles II., to whom it was especially dedicated. It was published in 1675, and has the following title-page:—"Britannia, or an illustration of the Kingdom of England and Dominion of Wales; by a Geographical and Historical description of the Principal roads thereof, &c.—By John Ogliby, Esq., His Majesty's Cosmographer, and Master of His Majesty's Revels in the Kingdom of Ireland." In this work is contained a plan of Cheltenham as it then stood in connection with other post towns. From this we learn that the only mail-road which then intersected it, was on the route from Gloucester to Coventry—passing from Cheltenham by the Swindon-road on the spot shown in the sketch to Prestbury and through Winchcomb. The author thus informs his readers—"At nine miles (from Gloucester) enter Cheltenham, in extent 6 furlongs; it numbers near 200 houses; hath a fair church.—Winchcomb is a large town, containing about 300 houses; a place well known, for at this place and Cheltenham, the people are much given to plant tobacco, though they are suppress by authority." The writer of this voluminous work assures us in his preface that all his observations are founded upon actual visits to the places detailed and made by royal command. On this account the information is extremely valuable.

In further illustration of the important position which Cheltenham then occupied as a tobacco growing parish, we give *verbatim* extracts (from the "*Perfect Diurnall*") of the minutes of the House of Commons, in chronological order:—

1652, April 1.—An Act passed, prohibiting the planting of tobacco in England, which materially affected the interests of many persons in Gloucestershire.

May 6.—This day was read in the House of Commons "The humble Petition and cries of many land owners and labourers of Cheltenham and Winchcomb."

Resolved, that a declaration be brought in to-morrow morning, for dispensing with the forfeiture of the Act, intituled "An Act Prohibiting the Planting of Tobacco in England, for all Tobacco that was planted within this Commonwealth before the 8th day of May, 1652, for this year only."

1653, Aug. 15.—Three pence upon every pound of tobacco

planted in the county of Gloucester to be paid by the planters to the use of the commonwealth.

Sept. 3.—A bill passed allowing the English planters in Gloucestershire to enjoy the English Tobacco by them planted this year only without interruption."

To ye Parliament.

The humble petition and cries of many land owners and labourers at Cheltenham and Winchcomb in ye county of Gloucester.

Humbly complaininge, sheweth unto your most excellent Majesty and Parliament, your obedient and faithfull subjects, the growers and cominality, of ye towns of Cheltenham and Winchcomb: that your petitioners have for many years past grown in ye common fields ye weed called Tobacco, and pray that your Highnesse and Parliament will permitt them through your Council to practice the same, as their crops will be perilled and lost and it will be to ye ruined of very many labourers: our crops thereof growing and growen also into decay, with many other inconveniences, in tender consideration thereof, may it please your Majesty's Hon. Counsell, according to ye necessity of ye cause, and your said obedient subjects, and all the countries thereabout, shall accordingly pray for your Highnesse and Parliament. Cheltenham, May 1652.

The real reason why the Cheltenham growers were interferred with by the Legislature was from the fact that vested interests were at stake. Fuller tells us that the inhabitants were acquiring wealth by the practice. This excited the ire of the Merchants (who were importing the then scarce weed from Virginia) to such an extent that the House of Commons interfered, and attempted to suppress the local plantations. The inhabitants, so loyal to their sovereign upon other occasions, did not tamely submit to be deprived of a trade that had proved so highly lucrative. The order for putting in force the enactment was entrusted to the authorities of Gloucester. A regiment of soldiers entered the town and commenced the work of destroying the plantations. The inhabitants defended themselves bravely, and the soldiers, who were mounted on horses, were glad to beat a retreat. In the *Mercurius Politicus*, a Court newspaper, published on July 31st, 1658, it is said that "Cornet Wakefield, with a party of horse, marched out of Gloucester to destroy the Tobacco about



Winchcomb and Cheltenham. The country did rise on them, about 500 or 600, threatening to kill them, horse and man, so that they were constrained to depart." The document which was sent down by the parliament for carrying the work of destruction into effect, is preserved among the city of Gloucester records. We transcribe it on these pages in order still further to illustrate the excitement which then prevailed, not only locally, but throughout Europe:—

*To the Maior and Justices of the Peace for the Citty and County of the Citty of Gloucester.*

GENTLEMEN,—

The late Parliament having, by their Act, published April 4, 1693, prohibited the planting of Tobacco in England, his Highnesse, with the advice and consent of his Councell, did on the 11th April, 1654, passe an Ordinance for authorising certain persons therein named to put the fore recited act in execution; being induced thereunto from consideration then had of the prejudice and loss ariseing to the English plantations abroad, and to the trade at home by planting of the Tobacco in this nation. After that ordinance was passed, it appeared to his Highnesse, by the petition of several persons about Winchcomb and Cheltenham in Gloucestershire, and other places adjacent, that several quantities of Tobacco had been planted in that season in several of those places, and it was prayed thereupon by the petitioners, that they might enjoy their crop of Tobacco then growing, promising withall to forbear the planting of any more for the future without license granted to them in that behalf. Whereupon the Commissioners appointed by the said ordinance, and all others employed under them, or by their authority, had direction from his Highnesse and his Councell to suspend the further execution of that Ordinance and Act of Parliament as to the Crop then growing, till further order. Lately his Highnesse hath been addressed to by several Merchants, and others relating to Virginia, &c., complaining of the greate damage that hath accrewed to the English plantations abroad by the great Quantities of English Tobacco; the Trade to those parts being also thereby discouraged; in the consequences whereof Navigation will be impaired, the Customes of this

Commonwealth lessened, and the people thereof inhabiting those plantations impoverished. On consideration of which his Highnesse, upon advice with his Councell, have determined to lead the Commissioners appointed by the said Ordinance to see the said Act of Parliament put in effectual execution ; and not to license the planting of any Tobacco in England contrary to the purport and tenor thereof. And, therefore, to the intent the persons concerned may not, through want of seasonable warning, draw inconvenience upon themselves by further planting of Tobacco in your parts, the Councell doth hereby commend it to your care that this resolution of his Highnesse be published in your city and county, at such places as you shall judge most convenient, and in such a way as noe person concerned may give just cause to pretend ignorance thereof ; and that all such persons be let to understand, that his Highnesse doth require, and will expect the due conformity therein ; and that in case any of them shall presume the contrary, they must charge the detriment that will thence ensue upon their own default, which will be the less excusable, considering his Highnesse's indulgence as to the last Yeare's Crop, and their owne undertaking not to plant noe more without special license obtained.

Signed in the name and by

Whitehall,

Order of the Councell,

27 March, 1655.

HE : LAURENCE, Presid.

Notwithstanding this explicit Proclamation on the part of the government, and backed by a military power, the growth of the newly discovered weed was not abolished. We have seen that Ogliby, who visited the place in 1675, describes it as populated by a people "much given to plant Tobacco, though they are suppress by authority." No author after him speaks of the existence of the plantations, and it is, therefore, probable that a later enactment finally abolished the local cultivation of the Virginian plant.

During the reign of Oliver Cromwell, a complete change took place in the commercial character of the nation. The rigid and restrictive laws of a previous age had been suffered to fall into disuse. Tobacco, which was then regarded as a great luxury by the English, was imported from Virginia, and realized a high price. The value of the commodity induced several persons in

Ireland to attempt its growth, and in England the same experiment was tried at Cheltenham, Winchcomb, and Postlip. That these three last-named places should have been selected is not surprising when we remember that Ogilby informs us that they had then mail-roads, thereby affording an opportunity for commercial intercourse. Charles II. was crowned in 1661, and one of the first acts of his administration was to repeal all laws in favour of a popular government; and among his enactments was one prohibiting the growth of tobacco in England and Ireland. *The British Constitution*, vol. ii., informs us that the two places in England that were affected by the Tobacco Act, were Cheltenham and Winchcomb. Fuller, the eminent Church historian, asserts that so extensive were the Tobacco plantations in Winchcomb and the neighbourhood "that many got great estates thereby."

"Whether we were indebted for our tobacco to the celebrated Sir Walter Raleigh, who first introduced it into England, I am not prepared to say, but I think it highly probable. Sir Walter Raleigh, though born in Devon, was, by descent and property, a Gloucestershire man. The Raleigh's had property at Edgeworth, Lassington, Preston, and Turkdean, from the time of Richard II. to the reign of Elizabeth and James I. The celebrated Sir Walter himself possessed properties at Hawkesbury, Boxwell, Leighterton, and Whitminster, which were forfeited to the Crown on his attainder. In writing his "History of the World," he was assisted by a learned Gloucestershire man, Robert Barhill, of Dimmock. The Legislature, in her anxiety to protect the trade of her West India colonies, and for the sake of the revenue, has long since forbid the cultivation of the fragrant weed in this kingdom; but whether, in these days of free trade, it be necessary to continue the prohibition of the growth of this article of agricultural produce, is a question between the farmers and the Legislature. There is clearly nothing in the soil and climate to prevent its being grown as well here as in France, Germany, and other parts of Europe."—(Rev. S. Lysons).

"Richard Pates, the founder of the Grammar School, was a correspondent of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, the brother-in-law of Sir Walter Raleigh, and is mentioned in familiar terms in the unpublished autograph letters, which I was fortunate enough lately to meet with. It is probable that, when the two knights

introduced the weed from Virginia, a parcel of the seed was consigned to him; for Cheltenham was early famous for the growth of tobacco, which, with corn, formed the staple commodities of the place previous to the Act of Charles II., which made home-grown tobacco exciseable."—(*Letters on Cheltenham.*)

Winchcomb yet retains some relics of its ancient tobacco traffic. The barn where the weed was warehoused is located in North Street. The Wesleyan Chapel also stands on the site of another tobacco barn. Rostlip Hall, midway between Cheltenham and Winchcomb, was also a place where the process of "wetting" and "drying" was carried on, and in the old Post-office Directories it is included with the Tobacco Plantations.

"It is a remarkable circumstance, but little known, that tobacco, originally brought into our kingdom by Sir John Hawkins, in the year 1565, was first planted on English ground in this parish; and yielded a considerable produce and profit to the inhabitants, till they were restrained from the cultivation of it by an Act of Parliament, passed in the 13th year of the reign of Charles II."—(*Journey to Cheltenham Spa, 1781.*)

The first local introduction of the plant is ascribed by Camden to the great circumnavigator, Sir Francis Drake. The last-named historian relates that when tobacco was brought into England the first time by Sir Francis Drake, "that it immediately began to grow in very general use, and to bear a high price."—(Camden).

The author of the *Cheltenham Guide*, 1786, observes:—"Tobacco was first planted in this parish, and yielded a considerable produce and profit to the inhabitants till 1660, 1st, Charles II, when an Act was passed for prohibiting the cultivation of it. Tobacco was not known in England till 1586, 28th Elizabeth, when a fleet, under the command of Sir Francis Drake, and the Earl of Carlisle, general of the land forces, after having, in 1586, taken St. Jago, one of the Cape de Verd Islands, and St. Domingo, but being dispersed by a storm, part of them keeping on their course, along a desolate coast, lighted with some Englishmen, who had planted themselves in Virginia, so named in honour of their virgin Queen, having been carried over thither for a colony in April, 1584, by Sir Walter Raleigh. Ralph Lane, one of the above, came over with Sir F. Drake, and was the first who brought Tobacco into England; which had been

discovered by the Spaniards in Tabaco, and was introduced in France by Nicot, and by the French was first called Nicotiana. Sir Francis Drake, at the same time, first brought Potatoes into England." The family of Sir F. Drake were allied to one of our county families, and the last descendant of the great circumnavigator lies buried in Leckhampton churchyard, where monuments exist to his memory, both within and without the church.

Sir Francis H. Drake, Bart., who was the last of this renowned family, was a resident of Cheltenham until his decease in 1839. The pedigree and descent of the noble baronet is described on the tablet to his memory, in the interior of Leckhampton Church. His great ancestor, Sir Francis, who travelled round the globe in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was on personal intimacy with the "noble house of Berkeley," and a large portion of the furniture which was used in his cabin, three centuries ago, still adorns the walls of Berkeley castle.

At the time when the plant was reared in such abundance in the locality it became a fashionable article, and Cigar Divans were established in London. The *Criminal Trials*, vol. i., relates in confirmation of this, that the Peers copiously smoked tobacco whilst deliberating upon the verdict of the unfortunate Earls Essex and Southampton. Sir Walter Raleigh also sat smoking his pipe while looking at Essex's execution. And the popularity in which tobacco was held at the period when it was growing at Cheltenham and Winchcomb is apparent from the following lines, which occur in a very curious small octavo work (half manuscript) purchased by the late T. Hennev, Esq., J.P. (together with "Ogliby's Brittaina," which we quoted at the beginning of the chapter.) This singular production of the days of Oliver Cromwell, is entitled *The Marrow of Complimente*, and has a marginal reference to "ye praises of Cheltenham Tobacco." It was published in 1654:—

"Much meat doth Gluttony procure  
To feed men as fat as swine;  
But he's a frugal man indeed,  
That on a leaf can dine!

"He needs no napkin for his hands,  
His fingers' end to wipe,  
That hath his kitchen in a box,  
His roast meat in a Pipe!"

We thus see the very general fame that the Cheltenham tobacco fields once acquired. There is a difference of opinion as to who was the first introducer. The probabilities are, we think, that Sir Walter Raleigh was the means of our becoming a tobacco growing town. Richard Pates, the benevolent founder of the Grammar School, who, for nearly twenty years, conducted and superintended that establishment in person, was ever mindful of the interests of the town. His intimate friendship with the Raleigh family, as evidenced by the letters yet extant, may have led to the establishment of the Cheltenham Tobacco Plantations. The Raleighs resided in the neighbourhood; Sir Walter Raleigh, the great traveller's grandson, married the daughter and heiress of Sir Anthony Lawrence, Knight, of Sandywell Park.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

### The Town prior to the Discovery of the Mineral Waters.

FROM the first dawn of Saxon history, when the early converts to Christianity reared a local Monastery, down to the State abolition of all such institutions, Cheltenham maintained an important position as an agricultural district. The fact of its having been a royal manor tended, to some extent, to promote its prosperity. No less than nineteen crowned heads of England have been owners of the place, from the Saxon Edward to the unfortunate Charles I. Through all these successive reigns, Cheltenham enjoyed rights and privileges, and contributed so largely towards the expenses of the State, as to demonstrate that the then inhabitants must have been in prosperous circum-

stances. Such was the high state of cultivation that, in the thirteenth century, Henry III. had leased the parish in several lots to farm tenants. The local trade arising from this state of things, induced the monarch to increase the number of fairs and markets. These united privileges gave so much importance to the place, that Henry was enabled to exchange it away "for the seaports of Winchelsea and Rye." The parties who thus became possessed of the place were the Abbot and Monks of the Norman Abbey of Fescamp, and many new privileges were included in their charter, not the least of which was the grant to the Abbot of a license "to let out the manor to *religious* men and others," a proof that the monks were the best cultivators of the soil at that period. The original grant legalizing the exchange to Fescamp Abbey, is in the possession of Mr. G. A. Williams, librarian, of this town. It is dated the thirty-first year of the reign of Henry III., and by it the Abbot is constituted, not only the Ecclesiastical, but the judicial ruler of the manor. He is to appoint bailiffs, to try criminals, issue writs, "no steward or marshall is to interfere," and if any one should not obey the manorial mandate, "he having been summoned before the Exchequer, shall pay one hundred pounds of gold." From the days of Henry III., down to a century and a half later, the place continued to increase in prosperity, and each succeeding monarch added new privileges.

We now reach a period in history when the town, in common with other places, held under monastic tenure, had to experience the reverses of fortune. This lamentable event was brought about by the dissolution of Alien Priories; and not only Cheltenham, but other places in England, were reduced to poverty. "So great had been the dilapidation of cities and towns that eleven streets in the city of Winchester had fallen into decay; and in 1468 the opulent counties of Essex and Hertford were so bare of substantial inhabitants, that not one town in the latter county, and only Colchester and Maldon in the former, could send a member to Parliament."—(Fosbrooke). Cheltenham had, up to this period, sent its two members to Parliament, and a subsequent chapter will demonstrate that, on account of the poverty of its inhabitants, a petition was presented praying to be released from that Act on the score of expense. In 1441, in the twentieth year of the reign of Henry VI.,

according to records of Parliament, an Act was passed that all cities and towns desolate and wasted, or overcharged, were released from the "Quindismess and Dismes" (local taxes), and, accordingly, it was ordered—"That the laypeople, dwelling in the toune of Cheltenham, yn the shire of Gloucer, to the payment of the half of the said xyme, and xme, or any part thereof, concerning the said toune, by force of this graunt, be not arted nor compelled, but thereof quyte and discharged for ever." This state of things was but of very short duration, and Cheltenham arose, Phoenix like, from its decay, and became a Manor of high celebrity. In 1492, the Nunnery of Sion, the manorial possessors, received from the rent of lands annually, the sum of £111 6s. 8d.,—a very large amount for the time, and a convincing proof of the prosperous state of the locality. For three centuries Cheltenham was monastic property, and with but one exception during that long period, it gradually increased in population and prosperity, and enjoyed privileges of no ordinary character.

Leland, who visited the place prior to the Reformation, thus describes it in his "Itinerary":—"Chiltenham, a large town, havyng a market. It belonged to the Abbey of Cirencester, now to the kynge. There is a brook on the south side of the towne."

It continued in this state until Henry VIII. took possession of the Catholic property of England, when, as a consequence of that arbitrary act, the place became reduced to poverty, and it did not afterwards fully recover its ancient glory and celebrity.

From the time of the monastic dissolution, the history of Cheltenham takes a new and lamentable turn. Inability to support its Members of Parliament and its many other privileges, is the repeated complaint of its inhabitants during the reign of Elizabeth. The Manor, in 1540, having reverted to the Crown, attempts were made to resuscitate it both by the owner and lessee, but with little success. The fact of the place being defended as royal property during the war which occurred between Charles I. and Oliver Cromwell, caused many to take up their temporary abode in it at that time. After this ill-fated war had subsided, Cheltenham again relapsed into obscurity, and for at least 130 years after the reign of Charles II. no account of its population was taken, whilst the parish registers,



by the few obituary notices which they contain, prove that the town during the period must have been very thinly populated.

The small village, with its running stream, which Cheltenham degenerated into after the reign of Elizabeth, lost whatever trade might have existed prior to that time. The introduction of the tobacco plant into England for a time made the fortune of the place.

The most interesting incident connected with the former commerce of Cheltenham, is the fact of its having been an extensive Tobacco Plantation. Tradition, Parliamentary papers, and the historic page unite in demonstrating that the town, for at least half a century, was famed for both the quantity and the quality of the tobacco grown within its limits.

It is a curious fact, that the trade of baking bread was attempted to be monopolised by a few tradesmen in the town during the sixteenth century. Among the Prynne MSS. is preserved a copy of a petition sent to Queen Elizabeth from the master bakers of Cheltenham, complaining that certain strangers had settled in the town and had taken away their custom!

In 1712, the only seat was at Arle, belonging to Mr. Justice Dormer, "who had a very large estate in the neighbourhood;" and the only good houses, Mr. Hiet's at Alstone, and Mr. Mitchell's in the town. The hundred of Cheltenham contains Alstone, Arle, Cheltenham, Charlton Kings, Leckhampton, Swindon, Westall, Naunton, and Sandford. Arle and Alstone contained each 30 houses, Westall 6, Naunton and Sandford 5, and the town itself 250; making a total of 321." (Atkyns.)

The prices obtained for articles of commerce and for labour tend to illustrate the condition of the locality. According to Prinn, in 1620 the harvest was an abundant one, and the market prices obtainable in the town during that year was—for wheat three shillings, and barley sixteen pence per bushel. The same authority records that the most prolific harvest was in 1655, and that in the July of that year the market prices at Cheltenham were, for wheat, seventeenpence per bushel, and barley, one shilling and twopence!

In the reign of Charles the Second, these entries occur in a manuscript journal of the De-la-bere family—once the largest owners of property in the borough:—

							£	s.	d.
" April, 1678.									
Paid for a Cow bought of William Prinn	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	6
Paid William Gurton for 18½ Bushel of Wheat	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
Paid in full towards ye Mare	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	8
Wm Nayles had for two days worke for Maltng	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	4
Wm Mant had for six days worke in ye Church	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	7	8
Pd. Wm Laud for two days work viz. for putting on of ye hinges	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	4
upon ye board commanding the Bell	...	...	...	...	...	...			
and for putting on a crank on ye fifth day of April 1679	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	4
Paid Wm Yard one pound of Butter at	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	5
Paid now for 26 lb. of Bread	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Pd A, Elmior to buy a breed pyg for Margaret Powell	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	5	0

In a De-la-bere MSS. is this entry:—

" 1720. Wheat sold at Cheltenham Market	8, Bushel at 4s.	8d....	21	8	0
" " "	15, Ditto at 4	8	...	3	10 0
" " "	12, Ditto at 4	10	...	2	18 0

A butcher's bill dated October 5th, 1739, and addressed to "Master Thos Pope, ye Plough," has the following items:—

							£	s.	d.
Ye Lamb quarter 11lb. at 2½d.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	½
Loyne Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	11	
A leg of lam	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	
A pound Suet	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	3	
A pound Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	½
							4	8	

"Ye contents of ys Bill Reed per me

× Rich Gergory, his mark.

The Gregory family were tanners and butchers. The tan yard was located near the banks of the Chelt at the top of the town, on the site of the present new road, uniting the High Street with the Bath Road.

The "Cirencester Flying Post" of May, 1744, announces a good supply of grain in the market, and adds—"Price of Corn at Cheltenham:—Wheat from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. per bushel; Beans, from 2s. to 2s. 2d. per bushel."

The village-like character of Cheltenham during the past century is further illustrated by the manner in which the local poor were taken care of. The small number chargeable to the parish is evident from the poor-rates not amounting on an average to more than £12 annually. Under the old Poor Law, relief was given at the dwelling-house of the applicant, to parties who in some instances resided in their own freehold—of



They are preparing to establish a rope walk in the ground attached to the poor-house, which will probably be a source of very beneficial employ to the poor. Several families who have at different times been improperly admitted, are now directed to be dismissed from the poor-house, in order to make way for the admission of others in more necessitous circumstances, and for whose accommodation as to places of residence, an unreasonable expense by the rents of houses now directed to be abolished, has been incurred."

The vestry-book of this parish bears witness to many praiseworthy efforts of this kind which have been made in former years. The following extract from one of the many entries will illustrate the manner in which our local trade was generally introduced:—"At a vestry meeting holden in the parish church on July 26th, 1796, we, whose names are underwritten, do agree that Henry Smith, one of the overseers of the poor of this parish, shall agree with Messrs. Haines and Co., of the city of Gloucester, to establish the pin trade in the workhouse of this parish." Another means adopted at this period, was the binding out of parish apprentices. Many of these, in after-life, were thus enabled to become resident tradesmen, and in several instances died in opulence. In the parish chest are preserved hundreds of indentures of past apprenticeships; and the care and judgment in selecting the trades reflect credit on the conduct of the then officials of the parish.

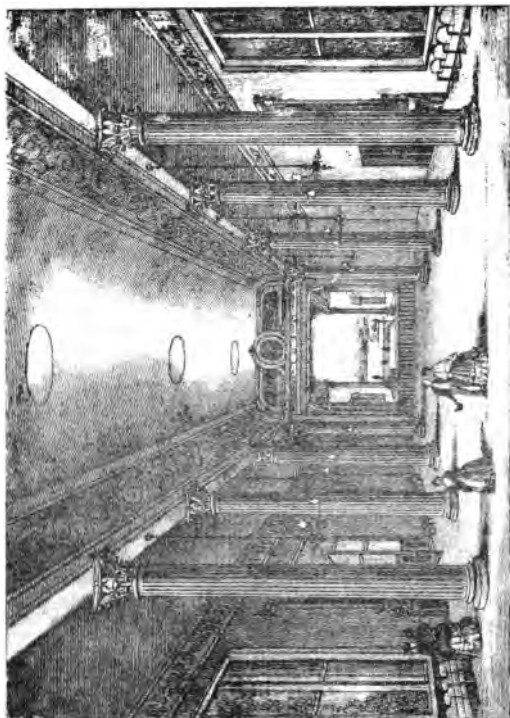
Houses were occasionally rented as circumstances required, until the increase of the local poor necessitated the erection of a separate house. The last premises rented was Allstone villa, which was afterwards converted into a fashionable boarding-house, to which was attached a spa. The old workhouse occupied the site of the Parish Church School-room, by the Great Western Station. It was the first erected, and after being leased for years was purchased by the Guardians, and when the New Poor Law came into operation it was altered to meet the provisions of that Act. But even this building, which was of some extent, proved inadequate for the purpose, and a more spacious one was erected. It was begun in 1840, and occupation by the inmates commenced on October 30th, 1841. Its accommodation then extended to 581 inmates, and since that period additional wings have been built which have materially increased its size.

The district over which the Board of Guardians have controul in the Cheltenham Union—comprises thirteen parishes, which, according to the census of 1861, contained a population of 49,682, and occupying an area of statute acres of 24,303. Under the old Poor Law, just prior to its abrogation, the annual sum expended for the relief of the poor was £5,770. Under the New Act the average expenditure of the Union is above £20,000 per annum.

The introduction of the New Poor Law led to an organized system suitable to the large increase of the population. The administration of the provisions of the Act have been judiciously effected by a Board of Guardians elected annually. The orderly and healthy character of the inmates of the workhouse, and the remarkably clean and comfortable manner in which the establishment has been kept, is a matter of notoriety both among visitors and residents. From the commencement of the New Act, records of all receipts and expenditures properly audited exist, so that we are enabled to present to the reader the sums which have been collected in tabular form, as also the latest returns of how the sums thus collected are dispensed. In 1840, Mr. Thomas Boodle was elected assistant-overseer, and from that period to September in the year 1861, that efficient officer collected the large amount of £327,877 9s. 9d., which is in fact the contribution of the past twenty years and a-half of the inhabitants of Cheltenham towards the poor-rate. We annex a copy from the assistant overseer's books, of the poor-rates collected under the New Poor Law Act up to September, 1861, and since 1840.

The account is presented in tabular form, and the amount given is the *net* sum raised after abatements have been made upon the original assessment in consequence of appeals, and "void and excused." The sum of £20,296 17s. 0½d. was the net proceeds of that portion of the collected rate for the Union for the year ending March, 1861. The average of the sum allowed for abatements may be inferred from the half-yearly report for Cheltenham, viz.: Excused, £479 17s.; void, £335; this was upon a shilling rate, and the reduction of assessments are in proportion to the amount of the rate. The sum here put on record is according to what has been received for the year, and like the audited accounts of the Guardians, contains the receipts





ROYAL OLD WELLS, CHERTSEY.

within two half-yearly periods, but not the entire rate, the balance being carried on to the next account. The two latest fully-collected rates for this parish only, of one shilling, and one shilling and threepence in the pound, amounted to £19,000 18s. 9d.

## POOR RATES FOR THE PARISH OF CHELTENHAM.

Year when levied,										Net amount collected.		
										£	s.	d.
1840	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,358	5	3
1841	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,663	18	5
1842	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,402	5	2
1843	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,165	0	8
1844	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,060	1	2
1845	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,441	8	6
1846	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,913	19	3
1847	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,143	6	0
1848	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,069	17	9
1849	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,895	17	6
1850	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,326	2	10
1851	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,951	6	5
1852	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,471	1	6
1853	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,397	19	3
1854	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,859	11	9
1855	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,705	14	9
1856	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,470	6	3
1857	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,145	5	3
1858	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,200	5	1
1859	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,404	16	0
1860	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,642	16	0
1861	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,489	11	11
Total collected in 21 years										£333,213	16	8

The prosperous state of the town causes full employment to all resident-labourers, consequently, the only parties who receive parochial assistance are those who are either enfeebled by disease or old age. This was clearly proved by statistical returns produced at a meeting of the Board of Guardians held in July, 1861. Mr. Downing, the chairman of the Board, in presenting the return observed, "that of the paupers who were in receipt of out-door relief, 764 were over 50 years of age, and 371 over the age of 70. There were 218 men, and 546 women, whose ages varied from 50 to 94, which last-named age was that of the oldest pauper out of the house, there being one above that age in the house. With reference to the workhouse itself, there



were in it at the time the revision took place, 44 boys, 49 girls, 18 infants, 18 men, 78 old men, and 19 under the age of 50. There were also 43 old women, 35 being under the age of 50, and 4 tramps, making a total of 291. Out of the 868, whose individual cases were enquired into, he found that there were 456 widows, 32 deserted women, 162 married women, 61 single women, 79 widowers, 7 single men, 162 married men, 13 paralysed, 11 bed-ridden, 12 blind, 8 idiotic, and 22 cripples. The Guardians sometimes heard the cry raised of impositions being practised on the Board, but it would be seen from the statement he had read, that most of the relief given, was bestowed on persons who were really aged."

The expenditure of the Cheltenham Union for the year ending March 25th, 1861, was £20,313 12s. 9½d.; the number of persons receiving out-door relief for the same period was 3,675, and the total of all classes relieved was 5,373. Out of the poor-rate various sums of a miscellaneous nature are paid, and in order to illustrate the way in which our Union rate is distributed, we here put on record the amount of the

**EXPENDITURE OF THE CHELTENHAM UNION FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
MARCH 25, 1861.**

	£	s.	d.
In-Maintenance ... ..	2,168	6	7½
Out-Relief ... ..	7,391	6	6
Pauper Lunatics at the County Lunatic and other Asylums ... ..	1,548	5	5
Extra Medical Fee ... ..	152	13	6
Common Charges ... ..	1,800	15	11½
Ditto Irremovable Paupers ... ..	2,841	5	7½
Ditto Wanderers and Wayfarers ... ..	54	10	2
Repayment of Workhouse Loans ... ..	281	16	11
Interest on Ditto ... ..	53	12	8
Registration Fees ... ..	124	18	6
County Rates, Police, &c. ... ..	3,374	4	8
Collectors' Salaries ... ..	481	11	10
Sanitary Expenses ... ..	6	0	4
Premiums of Apprenticeship ... ..	11	0	0
Funeral Expenses ... ..	26	0	7
Other Expenses... ..	1	1	6
	<hr/>		
	£20,313	12	9½

The average weekly cost per head for the in-door paupers is 2s. 11d. ½ for food, and 2½d. for clothing. The average for the

year of the in-door relief list for the Union is 1,296 adults and 402 children. The only item in the list of expenditure that has materially increased, and over which we can of course have no control, is for the maintenance of the unfortunate lunatics. In common with the rest of England, this Union has had this charge to meet on an increased ratio during the last fourteen years commencing in 1849, whilst the numbers have increased threefold.

It is worthy of remark, and the fact strikingly proves the prosperous condition of the town, that although, as shown by the last census returns, Cheltenham increases 500 annually in population, yet, pauperism has decreased. In 1849, when the number of inhabitants was about 6,000 less than at present, 9,669 persons were receiving relief, whilst in 1861, with the increased population, only 5,373 had been relieved—nearly one-half less in number.

The cost for in-door maintenance of those directly connected with the parish is £1,800 8s. 2d., and for those receiving out-door relief £6,078 12s. 2½d. In 1860, the maintenance of lunatics cost £1,269 2s. 9d., and in 1861, £3,248 13s. 1d., and for the Union £1,458 5s. 5d. The county rate for police, &c. chargeable to the parish, is £2,666 13s. 4d., and to the entire Union £3,374 4s. 8d. The salaries of officers and common charges for the parish is £3,461 9s. 0d., and for the Union £4,696 11s. 6½d.

Out of the poor-rate of 1861, the sum of £599 15s. 10d. has been paid towards the expense of concreting the floor of the Cheltenham Parish Church, and other sanitary purposes in connection therewith, in accordance with an order of the Privy Council. This item is one, among others, which occurs in the Overseers' accounts, and although levied upon the rate, is not a payment made by the Guardians.

From incidental allusions, it appears that stocking-knitting and malting were the only known trades down to the close of the eighteenth century. In 1712, says Atkins, "Cheltenham is a town considerably engaged in the malt trade." And Martin, who in 1759, published a Natural History of England, describes the town as "having a good trade in malt." Various other trades were afterwards established here by the aid of the parochial officers. Their plan was, to engage with certain persons,

to teach the inmates of the workhouse how to manufacture various articles, and thus the inhabitants had an opportunity of relieving themselves from the burden of poor-rates, and assisting in making Cheltenham a mercantile town.

The malting trade formerly carried on in the town was evidently considerable, both from the allusions which is made to it in history, and from the number of buildings or "malt houses" which was known to have existed here.\* The traffic in corn required a public and convenient place for the parishioners to assemble in, and this want was supplied at the expense and through the benevolence of a resident. The account of this building will unfold to us the commercial and social condition of the place in the middle of the seventeenth century.

In the centre of the road between the original "Plough" as represented in page 263, and the equally ancient "Crown," stood the corn and wool market, which was taken down in 1786, and the materials sold for £64 10s. under powers of the first Commissioners' Act, when, at the same time, the Chelt that flowed by it was diverted into its main course. The erection of this market was effected by a sum of money bequeathed by a former master of Pates' Grammar School. This benevolent individual, who lies interred in the south aisle of the Parish Church, was the Rev. Christopher Bailey, M.A., who died in 1654, after having honourably filled the office of master for thirty-two years. The particulars of this bequest are contained in an entry in the Court Rolls at the Cheltenham Manor Office, of which the following is a verbatim copy:—

9 October 1654.

To the right worshipful John Dutton, Esq., lord of the libtie, hundred, manner, and market of Cheltenham, in ye county of Gloucester.

The humble petition of Nicholas Ashmead, and Edward Johnson, executors of the last will and testament of Christopher

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\* The old rate books show that a fourth part of the town was malt houses. It was a local custom to rate to the poor all out-houses and stables besides dwelling-houses. As proof that the trade was a lucrative one, is the fact that Giles Cox, who founded one of our local charities in 1727, which is still in operation, is described in his will as churchwarden and maltster, and as having "obtained his substance thereby."

Bayley, Schoolmaster of the Free Schoole in Cheltenham, aforesaid, deceased.

Whereby they humbly show that the said Christopher Bayley, out of his pious desire to advance the good of the town of Cheltenham, where he gained the greatest part of his estate, did by his last Will devise and appoint ffourescore pounds, to be employed by yo<sup>r</sup> petitioners, his Executors, for the erecting of a Market-house for sale of Corne within the said Towne which yo<sup>r</sup> petitioners by the assistance of Almighty God, and your wor<sup>ps</sup> lycence, doe intend forthwith to build, with a convenient room over the same, for a woll market, and for keeping of the Court Leets, and other, yo<sup>r</sup> Wor<sup>ps</sup> Courts, with the s<sup>d</sup> maner, and for other publike uses of the Inhabitants of the said Towne.

Yo<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>rs</sup> doe therefore humbly beseech yo<sup>r</sup> Wor<sup>ps</sup> to be pleased to give them lycence to erect and build a market-house in the said towne of Cheltenham, To the uses afores<sup>d</sup>, and to assigne them some convenient place within the said Towne, in, or neere the place where the old market house before it was taken downe did stand, and also to be pleased to give direction that yo<sup>r</sup> Wor<sup>ps</sup> favour in this behalf may be at the next Court to be held for the View of Frankpledge and Court of the said Manner of Cheltenham inrolled in the Rolls of the s<sup>d</sup> Court for a perpetuall record thereof

And y<sup>r</sup> Pet<sup>rs</sup> shall pray &c.

Upon the exhibiting of the Petition above s<sup>d</sup> The Lord of the said Manor ordered as followeth—

I do hereby appoint Thomas Roberts of Cheltenham, Gent, my Chiefe Bayliffe there, to set out and appoint a fit and convenient place for the building a Market House as is desired to such uses as are above mentioned. And my Will's that this petition with this my answer be the next Courtered into the Rolls of the said Manner and made a record.

JOHN DUTTON.

22 Septembris 1654.

The *Morning Post* of the dates 1725 and 1745 contains advertisements which refer to this old house of traffic. One of these appeared in May, 1725; as follows :—

“Thomas Harvey, who served seven years' apprenticeship to a Vintner in London, and kept the George Inn, in Cheltenham,

Gloucestershire, for these nine years last past, is now removed to a new, large, handsome and commodious Inn, of his own building, opposite the Market-house, in Cheltenham aforesaid, called the Swan, where all noblemen and others, who shall be pleased to use his house, shall be sure to meet with good entertainment, and civil usage from their most obedient humble servant, Thomas Harvey. N.B.—He has a large commodious yard, with stables for upwards of sixty horses, stalled and bail'd; and coach-houses answerable. Note also,—He continues the Coach Way from the Hill, through the grounds, to this Inn as usual." The Swan, alluded to in this advertisement, stood nearly opposite to the Plough, at the corner of Winchcomb street, and the premises are now occupied by Mr. D. Gibbon, chemist.

This ancient market was doubtless the most public place in the town, and was the scene of many a rural gathering. It is often incidentally alluded to in connection with the mention of events which illustrate the village characteristics of the place. It was in this building that the indefatigable founder of the now influential body of Wesleyan Methodists preached his first sermon in Cheltenham. John Wesley's visit was on August 4th, 1744, and in his "Journal" he says, "Here I addressed one of the largest audiences that ever assembled there."

This market is thus noticed in an advertisement in 1745—"To be let and entered upon, immediately, or at any time between this and Michaelmas—The Crown Inn now kept by Josias Cooke, opposite the Corn Market House at Cheltenham. An hundred horses may be taken in at a fair."

To this structure the old inhabitant brought his produce and found a purchaser. And such appears then to have been the principal profession followed. It was an agricultural town, and manifested all the quietude of country life. The men were occupied in tillage and preparing for future crops, while the dame and her daughters manufactured stockings, and about the quality of which history speaks in terms of praise. Such was "Cheltenham in ye olden tyme."

The poverty and obscurity of the borough, except at short intervals, from the Commonwealth down to the dawn of the eighteenth century, is strikingly apparent in all local documents of that period. But the dark gloom of the past becomes dispelled by an event, which, when viewed in its great results, has

perhaps, no parallel in any local history. We allude to the first discovery of the Spa Waters. That remarkable incident paved the way for placing Cheltenham in the sunshine of prosperity, and causing it to be known throughout the civilized world. From this interesting epoch, it has been gradually progressing in population, fame, and stability, as the next and following chapters will fully demonstrate.

We have been reviewing the period

When Chelt's bright streamlet, glistening in the sun,  
 Adown its only street was wont to run,  
 And stranger doves, from far, on weary wing,  
 Sought the loved waters of their favourite spring.  
 How altered now! farewell, thou fabled stream,  
 For thy existence is but as a dream!—  
 Farewell the ancient fisher wont to ply  
 Thy sport-fraught waters with the fatal fly,—  
 Farewell the lily and the rushy sedge  
 That erst adorned thy once so verdant edge,—  
 Farewell the sunny meadows, and the trees  
 That whispered softly on the Vesper breeze;—  
 No more the happy cottagers are seen  
 Disporting, as of yore, upon the green;  
 No more the echo wakes each joyous tone—  
 Cold are the hearths—the merry voices gone!  
 And yet, why mourn them? for in time a great race,  
 My native town has gained the proudest place,  
 Kings have proclaimed her, thronging 'round her throne,  
 Queen of a beauteous empire, all her own;  
 And wandering pilgrims rapturously rove  
 In silent wonder through each fragrant grove.

Cheltenham has now higher claims for public patronage than that of a commercial town. It cannot boast of extensive manufactories of art, with modern application of scientific discoveries, but it can prove its title to the possession of a *natural* manufactory, hourly at work in producing those wonderful Mineral Waters, which have scattered the blessings of health among millions of suffering invalids for upwards of a century. "It has been said, but I do not admit it, that we have no manufactories in Cheltenham. I admit, the manufactories we deal in are not transportable, but I strongly contend that Providence has blessed us with means for the manufacture of that which is most essential to mankind. The salubrious springs, the mild air, the shelter from the northern blast afforded by the Cotswold hills, render it a place particularly adapted to supply health to

the invalid, peace and quiet to the old, and amusement to the gay and youthful. These are the manufactories of Cheltenham; and I am happy to say that they cannot be conveyed from her. To be enjoyed persons must come to them, because they cannot be found in the same degree in any other place. It is the position of the place which, under Providence, has raised Cheltenham from the insignificant village it once was to the proud position it now holds." (Speech of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Earl Fitzhardinge, at the public meeting at the Assembly Rooms, in 1850, upon introducing the Rev F. Close as the mover of a resolution in favour of a town subscription in aid of the Great Exhibition in Hyde-park).

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## CHAPTER XV.

### **The Town at the Discovery of the Mineral Waters.**

On the spot now known as the Royal Old Wells, a spring of saline water discharged itself, which in its course left depositions of a salt character. The quantity of saline matter thus scattered upon the ground attracted occasional flocks of pigeons. This circumstance was at length noticed by some of the inhabitants, who occasionally drank of the spring, but the matter occasioned no surprise beyond the immediate locality. The period to which we are now alluding is the year 1716, and in order to perpetuate the alleged discovery of the waters by the pigeons, two carved representations of these birds are placed on the entrance pillars to the Old Well Walk. It is a striking fact that the inhabitants of Cheltenham should not have appreciated these health-restoring waters for so many years after they were first known. They flowed from their "well head" unnoticed, and it was not until their properties were examined by eminent medical men, and the result of their analysis published, that they were used by invalids.

We purpose to put on record copies of local documents that will unfold the state of the town when the mineral waters were first discovered. From these authentic sources we shall be enabled to form correct data for deciding the history of "old Cheltenham—at the time

" When it could only claim  
More than the passing mention of its name,  
When it, a humble hamlet in the dale,  
Nor 'pointed moral, nor adorned a tale,'  
When Chelt's bright streamlet glistening in the sun,  
Adown its only street, was wont to run."

We give several illustrations that will help to elucidate the period now under review, taken from original drawings.

The first discovery of the mineral waters was an event as important to the future interest of Cheltenham, as the discovery of gold was to the future progress of Australia. The medicinal treasure was in existence, but it was but little known, and wanted to be appreciated. It required a "local habitation and a name" to give it a start in the fashionable world. It wanted "the right man in the right place" to do this great work. Providence, by a singular train of events, brought such a man to the town. This was Captain Henry Skillicorne, the architect of his own fortune, and honourably distinguished as one of the society of "Merchant Adventurers." The ground upon which the Old Well stands, devolved to him by heirship, and upon taking possession of his new-estate, he immediately set about improving it. By this act he laid the foundation of Cheltenham's future greatness, and we proudly class Capt. Skillicorne amongst the greatest of our local benefactors. He lies interred in the parish church, and the extraordinary improvements which he effected are perpetuated on a monument erected to his memory within the edifice.

Captain Skillicorne was no ordinary man. He entered in a clear legible hand the every-day transactions of his life. This manuscript folio journal is now in possession of his lineal descendant, W. N. Skillicorne, Esq., J.P., (to whom his valuable property devolved), and it affords the only correct data upon which we can arrive at the first establishment of the original Spa. It is our privilege to be enabled to publish the following extracts from this MSS. :—" In the winter of 1739, I made the



upper walk, planted elms and lime to the number of 37, and made a new orchard adjoining. The winter 1740 I made the lower walk, planted 96 elms, at the expense of £56. Had that summer 414 subscribers at the Wells at 12d. per piece. Built a yard round it, and 18 little houses. The summer 1740 proving very dry, I had 46 of the trees dead; set 44 in the room of the 46 died the summer before, and had that summer 674 subscribers at the Wells at 12d. per piece. The summer 1741, proving very dry, 30 trees died, and a great part of quick-set hedge planted by the walk, and several other sorts set, as elms, ashe, sally, and crabsticks, sets, and withy and pollards set about Ashmead and other parts of the estate died, which I planted again. 1742, built another room two stories high; this year had but one tree dead, which I have planted. Had this season 667 subscribers. In the year 1743, 644 subscribers; 1744, 502; 1745, 500; 1746, 510; 1747, 451; 1748, 655; 1749, 643."

In the formation of the grand walk at the Old Wells, Captain Skillicorne was aided by the following contributions, which are entered in his journal under date 1789:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Rev. G. Stokes ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Tibbitt ... ..	1	1	0
Rev. Mr. Longford ... ..	1	1	0	Jesus College, Oxford ... ..	2	2	0
Rev. Mr. Mace ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Cobb, Gent. ... ..	1	1	0
Rev. Mr. Prian ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Gardner, baker ... ..	0	10	6
Rev. Mr. Meyrick (Rector) ... ..	1	1	0	Edw. Timbrel (churchwarden) ... ..	0	5	0
Rev. Dr. Peerdts ... ..	1	1	0	Edw. Slatter ... ..	0	2	6
Rev. Mr. Jones ... ..	0	10	0	John Pope (Plough) ... ..	0	5	0
Madam Dormer ... ..	2	2	0	Walt. Ireland ... ..	0	7	0
Robt. Cox ... ..	1	1	0	John Hayes ... ..	0	5	0
J. Trevanian, Gent. ... ..	0	10	6	Barth. Edwards ... ..	0	5	0
Wm. Norwood, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0	Mr. Praen ... ..	0	5	0
Walter Smith, barber (Eleece) ... ..	0	10	6	Hon. Sir J. Dutton, bart. ... ..	5	5	0
Mr. Surman, barber ... ..	0	10	6	Rev. Francis Welles ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Jones, sadler and church- warden ... ..	0	10	6	Thos. Holder ... ..	1	1	0
Mr. Lattimer ... ..	0	10	6	Rolt Cox, Jun. ... ..	1	1	0
Ezra Wells ... ..	0	5	0	Mr. Stratford, Mr. E. Gale, and Mr. Sandford, four teams, with Mr. Ailway ... ..	1	4	0
Mr. Ovenhall ... ..	0	5	0	Wm. Willa, his team day ... ..	0	6	0
Mr. Shuller ... ..	0	5	0	Widow Mills team day ... ..	0	6	0
Widow Surman ... ..	0	5	0	Tho. Clark team day ... ..	0	6	0
Mr. Benfield's clerk ... ..	0	2	6	Mr. Stratford team day ... ..	0	6	0
Mr. Jones of Teuxbury ... ..	0	10	6				

An experimental trial as to the quantity of water in the well is, thus, recorded to have been made in the presence of some

distinguished persons:—"1762, June, 23. Memorandum this 23rd of June, 1762, being a very dry season, I made a second tryall on ye Spaw to see if it produced less water then it did the 6th day of Jany last, when it was very wett weather, and found it to produce 18 quarts, beer measure, which is rather more than 5 gallons, or 20 quarts beer measure it produced ye 6th Jany, last in wett weather. Present at this tryall, Sir Thomas Stanhope; Phillip Sharpe, Esq., Clark of the Privy Council; Thos. Bliss, Apothecary, all of London; and Rev. Mr. Speed, of Bridgewater."

Manuscripts of the date 1749 and 1763, give the following account of the first discovery of the mineral properties of the waters:—"This water owes its discovery to a slow spring being observed to ooze from a strong, thick, bluish clay or marle, under the soil, which, after spreading itself a few yards upon the surface, disappeared, leaving much of its salts behind; to feed on which, flocks of pigeons daily coming, induced Mr. Mason, the then proprietor of the ground, to take more particular notice of it, when it was further remarked, that in hard frosty weather, when other springs were fast bound, this alone continued in its fluid state. Upon trial, it was found to be cathartic. Others again say, that the virtues of this water were first shown on a horse which grazed there, who, by drinking at this place, and rolling himself in the grass where the spring oozed out, was cured of a violent humour, and other disorders he laboured under. The ground was originally the property of Mr. Higgs, of Charlton Kings, but not knowing of a medicinal spring being on the spot, he sold it, with the adjoining lands, in 1716, to Mr. Mason, who discovered the spring, which for some time after its discovery was open, and the people of the town and neighbourhood drank of it. In the year 1718, it was railed in, locked up, and a little shed thrown over it; and in consequence of some experiments made on the water by Dr. Baird, of Worcester, and Dr. Grevil, of Gloucester, its virtues became more generally known, and it was sold medically till the year 1721, when leased to Mr. Spencer at £61 per annum. After the decease of Mr. Mason, his son-in-law, Captain Henry Shillicorne, becoming proprietor of the spring and premises in right of his wife, the daughter of Mr. Mason, in the summer of 1738, not only built the old room on the west side for the drinkers, with other

necessary conveniences, but secured the spring from all extraneous matter, erected a square brick building on four arches, as a dome over it, with a pump on the east side, rising in the form of an obelisk."

The Spa was taken on lease by a Mr. Thomas Hughes, who seems to have sent the water in large quantities to different parts of the country, where he had appointed agents. The idea of personal drinking and musical promenading at the establishment would, at that period, if it had been proposed, been considered utopian. It will tend to illustrate the state of the times if we here record the following resolution, passed at a vestry meeting, which exempted the future Royal Spa from paying the poor-rate :—

At a Vestry Meeting holden the 11th day of October, 1753, it was agreed by us whose names are underwritten, (being the major part of the said Vestry), that the appeal of Thoms Hughes, of the Tything of Allstone, in this parish, touching the inequality of the Poor-rates with respect to the said Thomas Hugnes, for his Spring, or Well of Mineral Water, be not opposed.

We, the said major part of the Vestry, being willing and desirous that the said Spring, or Well of Water, be not rated or taxed to the relief of the poor.

EDWD. TIMBRELL, Churchwarden.  
THOS. HARVEY, Overseer.

The allusion to the tything of Allstone shows the rapid increase of buildings since that time. The original well was situate in that ancient tything or hamlet, which maintained its distinctness until modern enactments united it with this parish.



The brook which formed the parochial boundary flowed by the rear of Promenade-terrace, was open, and presented a most rustic appearance. The communication was made by means of a bridge of very humble pretensions, which we have sketched as it stood in 1821. It was long called "Jemmy Wood's bridge," from some legendary association with the rich banker's family, who owned the upper part of the town known as Sandford.

The New Road by St. Luke's Church is called after Sir Matthew Wood, one of the branches.

From the above documents it appears that the first analysis of the waters was made in 1721, by Drs. Greville and Baird, and from that time to the present, they have been examined by nearly all the celebrated medical men in Europe. The result of their united investigations has clearly proved that these waters are composed of muriate of soda, sulphates of soda, lime and magnesia, oxide of iron, chloride of magnesium, and iodine and bromine. These various properties are solely referable to the geological character of the locality. The clay beds are intersected with a great abundance of iron pyrites, or to speak in more familiar language, sulphur and iron, besides magnesian lime stones, and other saline matters. The springs, which at a great depth are only sea salt in solution, in forcing themselves to the surface come in contact with the matters we have been noticing, and decomposition ensuing, their properties are imbibed, and the far-famed Cheltenham waters thereby formed.

The true origin and source of these far-famed waters are very clearly described by Sir R. Murchison, F.G.S., in his "Geology of Cheltenham." Waters possessing the same mineral properties as our own, occur in the vicinity wherever the red stratas of red-sandstone (the depository of sea salt) and lias make their appearance. In consequence of the non-fashionable character of the places where the waters have been traced, all attempts to establish spas have failed.

The saline springs extend in every direction round the town, as may be seen by following the geological map; for besides those in Cheltenham itself, the following were examined by Dr. Jameson, who found the precipitations to correspond, in a great measure, in all cases. Hyde spring, strongly recommended by Dr. Lindon, in his book on the Mineral Waters, published in 1750. Cleeve spring, at Gotherington, near Woolstone, contains a large proportion of muriate of soda. Arle spring, scarcely a mile from the town, is described by Dr. Short as equal to that of Hyde, and a bitter aperient water. Stoke Orchard, four miles distant, between Elmstone Hardwick and Tredington, is a pure saline, as are also Allstone spring, at Allstone villa, near the Great Western Goods Station, and Gloucester spring, nine miles off. Naunton Farm spring, which was discovered fifty years

ago, but producing salts too black for use, nine miles distant, north-west of Toddington. Walton spring, described by Dr. Johnstone as having a sulphurous smell; with impregnation of iron, between Aschurch and Tewkesbury; and Barnwood spring, discovered in 1802, in digging blue clay, so hard as to require the use of gunpowder, two miles on this side of Gloucester; on the London road through Cirencester; Charlton spring, at Charlton Kings. Dr. Short's "History of Mineral Waters" was published in 1740, previous to which the Old Well waters, as mentioned by him, had been analyzed in 1721 by Dr. Granville, of Gloucester, and Dr. Baird, of Worcester, and, according to the joint testimony of those gentlemen, they possess medicinal properties superior to any in the kingdom. In 1803 appeared Dr. Jameson's excellent "Treatise on the Cheltenham Waters," and which still continues to be quoted as paramount authority. Mr. Bell, the late eminent surgeon of Edinburgh, considered the waters and climate beneficial in pulmonary complaints, the latter in particular from the shelter of the Cotswold hills, being as mild as that of the coast of Devonshire. Dr. Gibney's most useful "Medical Guide to the Cheltenham Waters," has reached a second edition. Dr. McCabe's "Observations on the Cheltenham Waters" appeared in 1820. Dr. Thomas, in 1820, visited, in company with Mr. Erskine, surgeon to the 22nd regiment of foot, then at Cheltenham for the benefit of his health, upwards of thirty of the mineral springs, or wells, to ascertain by personal inspection, if they produced a supply adequate to the demand; and if not, whether any, and what were the means artificially employed to supply the deficiency. The result was the most satisfactory, for, in his words, "there is abundance of water in those wells, prepared in nature's vast alembic, without the aid and concurrence of man.

A spring of similar quality to Cheltenham was discovered, a few years since, on the Park estate: a pump room has been created over it. Another has also been discovered at Charlton Kings.

A knowledge of the medicinal virtues of the waters had begun to spread about 1788, as is evident from the following handbill, which was circulated by the then renter of the well, and two printed copies of which are preserved in the Skillicorne Journal.

"Cheltenham Spaw."

"Whereas large quantities of Spurious Waters have for some Time been sold, in divers Parts of the kingdom, under the name, and some even under the counterfeited seal of the Cheltenham Spaw; In order therefore to prevent so gross an imposition upon the public, it is thought proper to advertise, That the genuine Spaw is sold only by Thomas Hughes, Keeper of the Well, and by such persons as are undermentioned, whom he supplies with large quantities of the same; viz. Mr. Thos. Davies, at his Water Warehouse in St. Albans Street, and Mr. Eyres, at Temple Bar, London; Mr. Richard Loversage, in Nantwich, Cheshire; Mr. Peter Ellons, Druggist, and Mr. Bouker, Draper, in Chester; Mr. T. Bateoyle, Apothecary, in Salop, Mr. Randal Kaey, Grocer at Whitchurch, Shropshire; Mr. Nath. Maule in Oxford; Mr. T. Wakeman, in Worcester; Mr. James Rumsey, Grocer, in St. Mary Ports St. Bristol; Mr. W. Allen in Bath; and Mr. Charlton, hatter, in Gloucester.

"Note also that Russell Langer of Worcester, Mr. John Purnell, in Peter St. Bristol, and Mr. Pat Broders in Berry St. London, do not sell the genuine water, having none from the real Spaw. And the proprietor of the Spaw doth hereby declare, that if any person or persons shall be discovered to sell any water under the name and seal of his Spaw, besides those already named, he will prosecute them as far as the law shall direct. Notice is hereby given to the public, that neither the Water nor Salts, carried by John Gregory, the Tewkesbury Carrier, and John Baylis, the Cirencester Carrier, is the true Cheltenham Spaw Water or Salts; the keeper of the Spaw being determined not to let them have or carry any more. And that any Gentleman, that has any occasion for the true Cheltenham Water and Salts, may apply to Thomas Hughes who keeps the Spaw, who will take care to answer their orders."

In the *Morning Post* is a letter thus curiously addressed:—

"To the Author, &c.

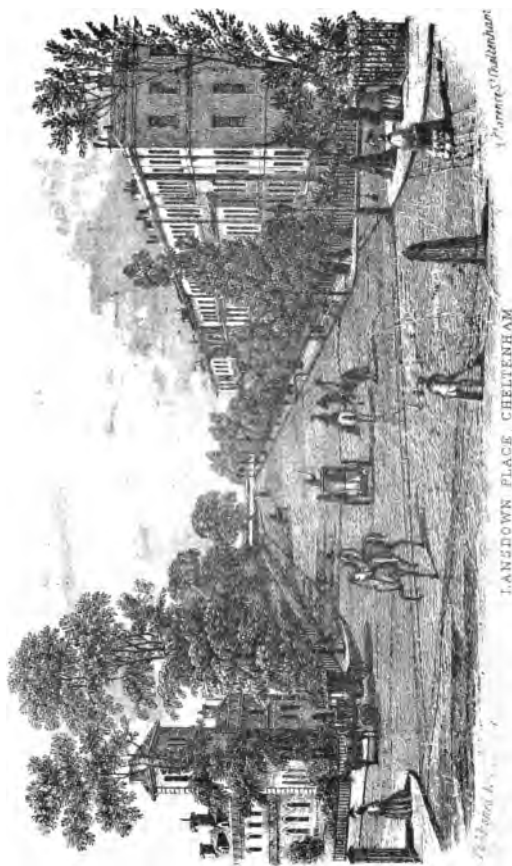
"Cheltenham, Aug. 11, 1743.

"Sir,—Publick Diversions in the Summer Season were never so universal through this Kingdom as they have been the three"

last years ; but the most useful meetings are generally esteemed to be at Bath, Scarborough, Tunbridge, and Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester ; at the last of which places a most Sovereign Calibat (chalybeate) Spring of Water, not understood till about 14 years ago, nor in high reputation above four years, having given within these few years such relief to the disorders of several thousands of the quality, gentry and others of this Island, the company has been larger this year than in any one before, having annually increased from the first discovery of the spring, and tis thought that Cheltenham will in a few years, from the great blessings attending the effect of the water, become one of the first Wells in reputation in Europe. As an instance of the increase in the number of quality and gentry at our Wells this season, we hereunder give you the names of some of the quality, amongst the number of above 600 persons of great fortunes and gentility who are at present here, viz., Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, and Lady Mary Campbell ; Earl of Chesterfield, Lady Suffolk, Lady Caroline Lennox, Lord Hobart's daughter, Lord and Lady Westmorland, Lady Archibald Hamilton and her daughter, Lady Juxol, Sir William Codrington, Lady Codrington and her three daughters, Lord and Lady Tracy and their three daughters, Lord A. Hamilton, Sir Thomas Moslyn's Sisters, Mr. Berkeley, Knight of the Shire, Lady Stapleton, Lady Masell, Lord Shelburn, Lord Bulkley, Sir W. Young, his Lady and two daughters, Lord Chedworth, Sir Francis Dashwood, Judge Fortescue and his lady, Sir Henry Slingsby, Lord Gage, Sir Robert Austin and his lady, Sir Robert Williams, Lord Say and Seal, General Peter Campbell, Lord and Lady Somerville and their daughters ; and the two Priors of Brecon and Thetford."

The contents of this curious letter reveals the very rapid manner in which the fame of the mineral waters must have spread through Europe. The names mentioned include the most titled and fashionable families of that day, and they form the first account that we have been enabled to trace of "Arrivals" at modern Cheltenham.

The following appeared in the *Gloucester Journal* for 1720, and at intervals in the London Press for several years afterwards :—



LANSDOWN PLACE, CHELTENHAM

J. Purser sculp. Cheltenham

Printed by J. Purser





## Advertisement.

“Whereas, the famous purging mineral waters at Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, have not been for some years last past, so much resorted to as formerly, from a report that the inhabitants of the said town were exorbitant in their demands, and no convenience to be had reasonably: By an unanimous meeting, consent, and agreement of the gentlemen, tradesmen, and innholders of the said town, This is to certify that all gentlemen, ladies, and others, may meet with kind reception and good usage, with convenient lodgings and ordinaries kept, if encouraged, at reasonable rates.

‘Note.—’Tis a pleasant town, situate in a fine sand, and in a fine air; and many persons of quality and distinction have been there, and received great benefit. The chief virtues are in rheumatism, sciatica, scurvey, stone and gravel, internal and external ulcers, and asthmas.

“The season holds all the summer.

“There is a good bowling green, and billiard tables for the gentlemen’s diversions.”

☞ The habits and customs of the inhabitants were those of rustic villagers, as is evidenced by the following advertisement, which appeared in the *Gloucester Journal* of August 11, 1741:—

“Notice is hereby given—that there will be a Cudgel Match opposite the Plough in Cheltenham, on Friday the 14th inst., (beginning half an hour after two, and ending at seven the same evening). He that breaks the most heads in three bouts, and comes off clear, to receive a good hat, and a guinea in money; the second best player, half-a-guinea; and every person whose head is broke, one shilling. Every player to enter himself at the Plough, aforesaid, by two in the afternoon. N.B.—Betwixt the hours of 10 and 2, there will be a gown jigged for by the girls.”

The practice of cudgels was kept up for some time after this date upon market and fair days. A stage was erected in front of the Bell, and the spectators were located on the Plough side of the High Street.

During the same period bull-baiting with dogs is advertised. These exhibitions took place in the High Street, in front of the

present Arched Buildings. Even down to the establishment of the *Cheltenham Chronicle*, in 1809, cock-fighting, as appears from advertisements, was regarded as a fashionable amusement. The following is a copy of a handbill dated July 26, 1757, which announced one of these exhibitions:—

“A Cock Match by Subscription, To be fought in Cheltenham Street, by the Gentlemen of Gloucestershire; to weigh on Saturday the 30th, and to fight the 1st of August. Any person or persons, that are willing to add to this Match, may send in their Cocks as above mentioned and may depend upon having particular care taken of them by Edward Sarsons, feeder. Gloucester. Printed by R. Raikes, in the Black Fryars.”

The small number of inhabitants just prior to the first establishment of the Royal Old Wells is apparent on reference to all the parochial records of that period. In order to elucidate this portion of our subject, we purpose to transcribe verbatim the entire contents of the Poor Rate Collector's book for 1727. This will be the means not only of preserving a list of the inhabitants that were living just previous to the mineral waters becoming famous, but also of illustrating the small value of property in the town. “The Levy Book made for ye releife of ye Poore of Cheltenham Parish on the 18th of April, 1727.” The name of the ratepayer and the amount contributed are placed together as in the original; the first list is the charge upon the houses, of threepence, and the latter upon the unbuil land, of fourpence in the pound.

ye Ratepayer.	s.	d.	ye Ratepayer.	s.	d.
Henry Wells .....	1	1	Benj. Barnes .....	0	6
Oba Arrowsmith .....	0	4	John Taylor .....	0	6
Wm. Ellis .....	1	1½	Thos. Kear .....	1	8
John Humphreys .....	2	2	Widow Dance .....	0	10
Sarah Key .....	1	8	Wm. Rogers .....	0	4
Widow Hooper .....	0	6	Edw. Church .....	0	4
William Brook .....	4	0	Richd. Mason .....	0	1
Margery Ireland .....	0	1	Nath. Cheater .....	2	4
John Cox .....	0	7	Thos. Nicholas, jun. ....	0	2
Thos. Higgs .....	0	4	Mary Holder .....	0	3
Saml. Ellis .....	0	10	Richd. Cox .....	0	2
Chas. Haynes .....	0	11	Paul Crump .....	0	4
Sarah Beckett .....	2	3	Giles Webb .....	0	6
Richard Bayliffs (heires) .....	0	2	Walt. Goodrich .....	0	5
William Strouds (heires) .....	0	2	John Potter .....	0	3

ye Ratepayer.	s.	d.	ye Ratepayer.	s.	d.
Mrs. French	1	8	John Robbins	0	6
Dr. Kean (heires)	0	6	Mrs. Packer	6	8
Jesse Bliss	0	4	Widow Mills	0	6½
And for his sister Betty	0	2	Thos. Wells	1	7
Wm. Wood	7	8	Ricd. Teale	1	0
Giles Cox	0	1	James Nicholas (heires)	1	0
James Wood	2	9	John Skey	0	4
Walt. De-la-bere	7	4	Edward Timbrell	0	4
Mrs. Ireland	0	2	Hester Maccock	0	4
John Ballinger	0	5	Widow Hurst	0	8
Thos. Pope "The Plough"	2	0	Widow Jefferies	0	2
Edward Mitchell	3	2	Isaac Cole	0	5
Charles Perkins	1	4	Adam Wills	1	7
Richd. Coules	0	8	Walt. Mathews	0	6
Mrs. St. Leger	2	2	Thos. Clark	1	10½
Toby Sturmy	16	5½	Clerks heires	2	0
Walter Mason	5	10	John Wills	1	8
Wm. St. Leger	0	6	James Carpenter	0	8
Walt. Long	0	2	Widow Newman	6	11
Mrs. Ashmead	4	2	John Hamline	0	6
Sarah Teale	0	7	James Hill	0	4
Thos. Surman	0	3	Edw. Arkell	0	6
Mrs. Walters (heires)	1	4	John Oakey	0	1
Sam Drinkwater	1	4	Joseph Bliss's heires	0	3
John Cook	1	6	Richard Robins	1	9
Edw. Wells (heires)	1	2	Richd. White	0	6
Thos. Smith (signor)	0	10	Willm. Slatter	9	8
Thos. Smith (junr.)	0	6	Sam Cook (signor)	0	11
Hall Smith	1	3	Sam Cook (junr.)	1	2
Widow Finch	2	0	Israel Slatter	0	6
Dan Chester	4	6	T. Nicholas (signor)	3	8½
Mr. Ludlowa (heires)	5	11½	And for Church Mead	0	11
Ethell Perks	1	6	A. Chester (signor)	1	6
Giles Ashmead	1	2	Wm. Chester	1	11
J. Mason (Old Wells)	£1	1	Widow Elisse	2	1½
James Parson (heires)	0	4	Walter Ireland	2	6
Isaac Morell	0	6	Ricd. Blisse	1	1
Jacob Holder	1	4	Widow Forty's heires	0	10
Thos. Benfield	0	10	Job Smith	0	10
Mrs. Parkes	2	7	Franc Spencer	0	11
Rich. Parkes	1	2	Giles Head	0	8
Walter Cox	0	6	Edw. Nicholas	1	10
James Beckett	2	5	Giles Cox	14	5½
Dr. Smith	2	6	Robt. Elisse	7	2
John Mawk	2	11	Robt. Cox	5	6
Thos. Leach	0	6	And for the Moors	2	7½
Ezra Wells	1	4	Eleanor Kemmitt	1	7½
Wm. Holder	0	6	Widow Milton	1	4
Mrs. Stevens	1	1	Wm. Ballinger	0	6
Dan Cook "Crown"	1	4	W. Mills	0	8
Wm. Cook	0	6	John Chester	9	9
John Humphreys (signor)	0	10	Antho. Chester, jun.	0	6
Barth. Edwards	0	5	Widow Ashmead's heires	0	3

ye Ratepayer.		s.	D.	ye Ratepayer.		s.	D.
William Meakius .....		1	0	Wm. Page .....		0	5
John Stormy .....		0	10	John Ashmead .....		1	4
Wm. Hyett .....		0	7	John Page .....		0	8
Bar. Hyett .....		1	0	Wm. Hill .....		2	8
Richd. Gregory .....		0	6	Christ. Mayer.....		0	3
Thos. Oakey .....		0	4	Thos. Giles .....		0	3
Nichl. Ashmead .....		1	4	Wm. Milton (Lamb) .....		1	4
Thos. White.....		5	6	Widow Dawson .....		0	6
Thos. Shewell .....		0	4	Wm. Lyes .....		0	2
John Hyett, jun.....		4	6½	Alice Roper.....		0	4
John Hyett, signor.....		0	6	Charles Finch.....		1	0
Neighbour Ashmead's widow...		0	4	Saml. Surman.....		1	4

## Amount of Lands belonging to ye Town.

ye Ratepayer.		s.	D.	ye Ratepayer.		s.	D.
Kinner De-La-Bere, Esq. ....		8	0	Saml. Whithorne .....		1	6
Wm. Baggott .....		6	4	Thos. Higgs .....		0	4
Fra. Wells .....		0	8	John Gregory .....		0	2
Edw. Goodrich .....		3	0	Richd. Hooper .....		2	0
Edw. Pemberton's heires .....		0	7	Thos. Buckle .....		0	1
Edw. Welch.....		1	4	Widow White's tenant .....		0	3
John Prinn, Esq.....		3	2	Mrs. Parker.....		0	2

From this document it would appear that in 1727, there were 158 heads of families in the town who were rated to the poor. Besides these there were a few tenants whose names do not transpire, as it was then the custom for the landlord to pay the Poor Rate, and accordingly the entry runs "and for his tenant." Atkins, who visited the place in 1712, mentions 250 places in the town rated, but this included malt houses and out buildings. From the number of "untenanted" entries in a subsequent rate book we must infer that the population of the town was on the decrease at this time, which was four years prior to the first discovery of the Spa Waters. We have seen that in 1727, there were 158 heads of families, and in order to show the increase that has since taken place, we may mention that in 1861, when the census was taken, there were 9,320 heads of families, and 7,236 houses liable to be rated, besides 39 in course of erection! The Poor Rate Book for 1763, which is thirty six years later than the last quoted, shows a sign of a slight increase in the number of inhabitants. The Rate Book of the intermediate period 1741, manifests no alteration. At the first mentioned date 490 properties are rated to the poor, which comprise 300 dwelling houses, and 190 malt houses, stables, outbuildings, and

farm lands. 24 houses out of the number are entered as "untenanted," and the occupants of 5 houses are excused as "very poor." We make a few extracts to shew the value of property at that time:—

"An assessment for the necessary relief of the poor, and for other purposes in the several Acts of Parliament, mentioned relating to the poor for the parish of Cheltenham, made and assessed the ninth day of December, 1763, being the third rate since Easter last, at fourpence in the pound, on lands, and three pence on houses.

YEARLY RENTS.			OCCUPIERS' NAME.	ASSESSMENT		
£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
2	0	0	Giles Ashmead for his Casting Houses and Gardens...	0	0	6
18	0	0	Mr. De-La-Bere for his House (now Royal Hotel) ...	0	4	6
3	0	0	Ditto for the Old Park (now Suffolk road and St. James's square) ...	0	1	0
18	18	0	Richard Peachey for the Tolls of the parish...	0	6	3½
18	0	0	Thomas Davies for the Crown Inn ...	0	4	6
2	0	0	Dr. Iremonger for his stable ...	0	0	6
45	0	0	John Nickell for the George Inn and Lands belonging	0	12	1
6	0	0	Samuel Showell for the Bolt Ale House ...	0	1	6
6	0	0	Widow Page for house and lands belonging down Street	0	2	0
20	0	0	Mrs. Hyett, the Coffee House and adjoining House untenanted (site of Pittville street) ...	0	4	0
16	0	0	Thomas Meekings for his house (now Lance's, draper)	0	4	0
2	0	0	Giles Mathews for his house (now Dunn's, draper) ...	0	0	6
3	0	0	William Barrett for a Malt House he rents ...	0	0	9
17	0	0	Dr. Smart for his house ...	0	4	3
7	7	0	Richard Peachey for the Greyhound, North street ...	0	1	10
8	0	0	John Gregory for the Eight Bells Ale House ...	0	2	0
4	4	0	W. Norwood, Esq. for the house he lives in (descendant of a Lord of the Manor) ...	0	1	0½
9	0	0	Miss Sparkes for her house ...	0	2	3
2	0	0	Danl. Forty for his house ...	0	0	6
11	0	0	Mr. Chester for the Free Grammar School House ...	0	2	9
23	0	0	Robt. Jessett for the Fleece Inn ...	0	5	11
2	10	0	Samuel Kent for the Brick Kilns ...	0	0	10
5	0	0	Thomas Pruett for his house ...	0	1	3
5	0	0	John Pointer for the house he lives in ...	0	1	3
1	10	0	John Stroud for the house he lives in ...	0	0	4½
3	10	0	Thomas Haselton for his house ...	0	0	10½
1	4	0	John Preston for the house he is in ...	0	0	3
10	0	0	The Workhouse ...	0	3	0
1	10	0	Saml. Higgs for his house ...	0	0	6
1	9	0	Harry Stone for the house he lives in... ..	0	0	4½
26	0	0	Rev. Mr. Chester for his lands ...	0	8	8
30	0	0	Mr. Nettlehip for his house (Hobbs's Birmingham house) ... ..	0	7	6

YEARLY RENTS.			OCCUPIERS' NAMES.			ASSESSMENT		
£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
4	0	0	...Bevil Blizard for the house he lives in	...	...	0	1	0
46	0	0	...Thomas Pope for the Plough Inn	...	...	0	11	6
5	0	0	...Thomas Jordan for the house he lives in	...	...	0	1	8
151	10	0	...William Bury for the Tythes (Lay Rector)	...	...	2	10	6
14	0	0	...John Humphris for his house and mills (Barratt's)	...	...	0	8	8
1	4	0	...Danl. Belcher for a house	...	...	0	0	3½
4	10	0	...John Pott r for his house	...	...	0	1	1½
1	0	0	...William Benfield for land he rents of Mr. Prinn	...	...	0	0	4
15	10	0	...Thos. Stone for the house he lives in...	...	...	0	3	10½

## The outside of the Town.

60	0	0	...Mrs. Field for the Great House (Clarence Hotel)	...	...	0	15	0
6	0	0	...Frank Ballinger for the Church Mead (Crescent)	...	...	0	2	0
13	13	0	...John Hathaway, jun., for the Poor's Grounds	...	...	0	4	6½
8	10	0	...John Bastin for Tythes	...	...	0	2	2
20	0	0	...James Arkell for Sandford Mills	...	...	0	5	0
3	0	0	...Mr. Prinn for land he rents of Lord Essex	...	...	0	1	0
0	5	0	...Edwd. Ireland, sen., for land	...	...	0	0	1
9	10	0	...Arthur Spencer for his house and homestead (The Knapp)	...	...	0	2	0
4	4	0	...William Cook for the Ale House at Allstone...	...	...	0	1	0½
2	0	0	...Miss Stapleton, the Cold Bath, void	...	...			

The third rate for the year since Easter last for the Relief of the Poor of the Parish of Cheltenham, made the 9th December by us whose names are under-written, 1763.

J. RANSFORD	} Overseers of the Poor.
CHARLES HATHAWAY	
× THE MARK OF EDMD. DANCE.	
E. TIMBRELL	} Churchwardens
WM. JONES	

We two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Gloucester, one whereof is of the Quorum, do consent to allow of this Assessment, Witness our hands this 10th day of Decr., 1763.

W. BAGHOT DE LA BERE  
WILLIAM PRINN.

To form a correct idea of the former state of the town at this period we must refer to authentic plans and records. We compare Ogliby's "Dalrymple's" and the enclosure maps with the rate books, and we arrive at correct data respecting the buildings in existence and occupied at the early part of the eighteenth century. Taking the maps for our guide we enter Cheltenham, at the Charlton end, at a spot marked as "Gallows Oak Turmpike," and by a its side a fine spreading tree is represented with the designation "Gallows Oak." Passing onwards towards the venerable spire of St. Mary's, which guides us from the distance, we meet with a few irregularly built houses, straggling

without any view to connection. The mill at Cambray stands isolated, and the nearest neighbour is Lord Capel's "man that farms his tythes," who resides in all that remains of the once Saxon Priory at Cambray Meadow. Nearly opposite stands the old domain of the Saunder's family, which we have here sketched in order to preserve to future generations.



Three ancient Inns appear clustered in a short space—the Plough, the Swan and the Crown. In the midst of these



in the open road, stands a market supported on massive stone pillars. Not far from this place of traffic, on the north side, a large antique building is prominent, with a chapel attached, where a pendant bell indicates that the solemn rites of religious worship are celebrated within its hallowed walls. A greensward ornaments the front, and following the path upwards



to the doorway on a sunken tablet of stone we read this inscription, "Alms Houses of the Holy and Indivisible Trinity, founded by Richard Pates, A.D., 1578." The Inns of the George and Lamb we meet with in our journey onward, and a few more scattered dwellings and a malt house in Coffee House Yard. Up a narrow passage adjoining the last named place we can discern in the distance the small old English Presbyterian Meeting House. Still further on, a few stray thatched cottages are passed, and another Market House, ruder and smaller in appearance than the upper one, presents itself. In its rear is a round building of stone with an iron grating for a window, and within this "stone cage" there is a man in *durance vile*. A painted board over the doorway, has upon it the words "Blind House," and on the walls are rudely carved the words, "Do well and fear not." The church stile next meets our eye, and from it we can behold the noble and imposing structure of the Parish Church, and the antique Church House on the boundary of the grave yard. Still walking onward, past a few isolated homesteads we can discern amidst a thick cluster of trees, "The Great House," and its rural approaches over the old bridge. We have now reached the long and substantial range of stone buildings which bespeak the Elizabethian age; and over the door way of which is hewn out of the stone in rude letters, "Schola Grammatica."



Passing under the pendant sign of the "Fleece," we wend our way to the left and observe, not far from each other, two old and retired places of worship,—"The Friends Meeting House," and "Old Bethel Chapel." On our right the Marsh, with its horrid

and ghastly gibbet posts looks sad and desolate; and in the distance the wide spreading branches of Maud's Elm wave aloft in the air as if to triumph over the remains of injured innocence. We have been journeying through a village, where the dwellings have been adapted to meet the comfort of the inmates, and not to attract the eye of the visitor. We have seen nothing to indicate the design of a regular street. Through the centre of the highway, on either side of which the houses stood, a stream branching from the Chelt, by Cambray Mill, held on its rippling course, refreshing as it went, and cooling the air above it in the summer time, whilst it ministered at once to the cleanliness and comfort of the inhabitants. At intervals a passage, from one side of the street to the other, was afforded by stepping stones. Not far from the Old Market House, a large tree partly overhung the stream, and in no slight degree heightened the rustic beauty of the scene. We passed through the Church Mead, and ascending Bays' Hill, we viewed Cheltenham as represented in the accompanying sketch.



"Oh, in that day thou beauteous wert, for all  
 Was simple; then not thine the grand hotels—  
 Thy glory now! nor lofty pillar'd hall,  
 Nor high-arch'd dome; yet oh, thou had'st thy dells,  
 Where violets lurk'd."—*Byrne*.

"There is in this town an individual who remembers the violets growing, and the horses grazing in the High Street.—*Cheltenham "Free Press," 1834.*

The first Cheltenham Guide was published in London, in 1781. It is a very detailed work for the time, and forms a valuable standard of reference. It was entitled, "The Chelt-

enham Guide, or, useful Companion, in a journey of health and pleasure to the Cheltenham Spa." In order to illustrate the state of the town at the period of its issue, we shall publish a few extracts from a copy in our possession, which was purchased at the sale of the library of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex.

"The public breakfasting is at the Long Room every Monday morning at 10 a.m., during the season; each person pays one shilling. The balls begin at 8 in the evening, and country dances close them at 11; they are constantly kept from Midsummer to Michaelmas. Each person who drinks tea, or a dish of chocolate, pays sixpence; ladies who dance excepted, the gentlemen, their partners, paying for them."

"The London Post to Cheltenham goes out Monday evening at 10, Wednesday at 12 at noon, and Saturday evening at 10, and comes in on Monday, Thursday and Saturday mornings."

"At present the street is greatly encumbered with certain old coarse buildings supported on stone pillars; these are called the Corn Market and Butter Cross, and another below them neither has nor merits a name. It is to be hoped that objects so very unsightly will soon be removed."

"A stage coach holding six, and a diligence, carrying three passengers, set out every evening at 6, Sundays excepted. The coach goes from the Bolt and Tun, Fleet-street, London, and the diligence from the Swan with two Necks, in Lad-lane, and proceed to Gloucester. The coach fare is a guinea, and that of the diligence, one pound four shillings; they stop to change horses at Frog Mill, seven miles from Cheltenham; and from thence, passengers are regularly accommodated with good post chaises, at a small expense. A stage waggon goes to and from Cheltenham and London once a week. Sets off on Friday morning at 11, from Snow-hill, London, and reaches Cheltenham Tuesday evening at 8. Also sets out from hence on Monday morning at 6, and gets to London about 3 on Thursday afternoon."

The first coach that conveyed passengers from the metropolis to this town, (*via* Frog Mill, *en route* to Gloucester) of which we have any account, was called "The Gloucester Flying Machine." The journey was accomplished in three days, which was

considered a very marvellous achievement for the time. The *Gloucester Journal* of Nov. 23, 1738, contains an advertisement to the effect that "If God permitted, the Gloucester Flying Machine would perform its journey in the short space of three days." The undertaking was considered a dangerous one, and six horses are announced as a necessary accompaniment. This is apparent from several wills of this date in the Gloucester Registry. One of the name of Dormer, an old local family, thus commences:—"Whereas I am about to take a journey to London, and whereas it is uncertain whether or not I may live to return, I do therefore think it necessary to make my last Will and Testament." The advertisements which appear weekly in the *Gloucester Journal* for 1758, show that the "Flying Machines" were considered a marvellous mode of conveyance, and the only one, "if God permitted," which enabled the inhabitants of Cheltenham to reach London. In 1736, when Sir Edward Seymour visited the town, his biographer, (as elsewhere stated), relates that for want of accommodation, he had to proceed to Gloucester to obtain sleeping apartments, and that to effect this he had to bespeak a post chaise in the "fayre city"—the only one that it possessed, none at that time existing in the Inns at Cheltenham. There was also but one conveyance to and from Bristol, and before that journey could be effected a passenger from the town had first to reach Gloucester. This is further confirmed by Counsel, who observes in his "*History of Gloucester*," that "There was but one stage coach only that travelled from Gloucester to Bristol; it was drawn by four horses, with ropes instead of traces, and performed the journey in the short space of one day. The writer also remembers the first post chaise that was set up in Gloucester; it had three wheels only, and the entrance was by a door behind the carriage, the ascent to which was by a step ladder. The proprietor was a person of the name of Barnett Hughes, whose son afterwards distinguished himself at Astley's Amphitheatre, London." In "*A Tour to Cheltenham Spaw, 1782*," it is announced that, "It is usual for those who have not their own carriages, on coming to Cheltenham, to take post chaise, from Frog Mill thither, the Gloucester vehicles setting them down at this place, as the next stage to Cheltenham. The Cross Hands is a neat public house. Close by the house, on the right leading from Frog

Mill towards Gloucester, is a good Summer bridle road to and from Cheltenham, through Dowdeswell and Charlton Kings. The direction post here is about five miles from Cheltenham, and this road saves two or three miles to the rider."

From these extracts it is apparent that there was then no direct road from the metropolis to Cheltenham. The journey must have been a long and tedious one, as "the Stage Coach, holding six, and the diligence, carrying three passengers," left its patrons within seven miles of their destination, exposed to all the unpleasantness and uncertainty of procuring another conveyance onward. How changed are matters now? By the Great Western Railway, London may be reached in three hours! and other important places are, by the formation of various railways, placed within reach of the inhabitants; and at no distant period, Cheltenham will doubtless become the centre of a great system of railway communication through the medium of the projected East Gloucestershire Line.

The celebrity of the waters attracted many persons of note, and amusements began to be established. The first notice that we have been able to trace of a public concert having been given was in the year 1757, as appears by the following advertisement in the *Gloucester Journal* of July 26th, of that date:—

"For the benefit of Mr. George, at Mr. Pope's Great House in Cheltenham, on Wednesday the 10th August next will be performed a concert of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, and a Solo of Signor Degiardino's will be performed, on the violin, by a gentleman. Performers from Bath, Bristol, and other places. After the concert will be a Ball for the Ladies gratis. Tickets may be had of Mr. Hughes, at the Well, and at Mr. Pope's Coffee House."

The "Great House," was the recently pulled down Old Clarence Boarding House, with stood on the site of the present Temporary Church. The "Coffee House," was located near the present Pittville Street, in Coffee House Yard. The state of the town at this period may be gleaned from the annexed extracts from the *Gloucester Journal*:—

"We hear from Cheltenham, that there is a great appearance of Gentry at the Balls there every Monday and Thursday, and at their Card Assemblies every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and

Saturday. There is more company every morning, at the Well and upon the Walks, then has been known there for some years past, a band of Musick attends constantly from eight o'clock until ten. We hear Mr. George's Concert will be about the middle of next month. Mr. Williams's company of Comedians is arrived and will act three times during the week in the season." (July 25th 1758.)

"Gloucester July 8, 1758. We hear that there is a prospect of a very large season this Summer at Cheltenham Spaw, several lodgings being taken, and the following persons already there, viz., Lord Wenman and family, Lord Chedworth, Lord and Lady Tracy, Hon. Captain Tracy, Sir Leicester Holt, Lady Holt and family, Mrs. Matthew and family, Mr. and Mrs. Garbett and family, Rev. M. Lloyd and family, Rev. Mr. Allen and family, &c." Under date of August 8, in the same year, the list of arrivals include the Earl of Massareen, Mr. Fararkerley, M.P., Mr. Gore, M.P., Mr. Kynaston, M.P., Hon. and Rev. Mr. Noel, the Rev. Dr. Boucher, &c.

Such was Cheltenham up to nearly the close of the eighteenth century. Emerging from obscurity, it yet retained all the characteristics of a rural village. The celebrity of its health-restoring springs attracted the attention of Royalty, and an enfeebled Monarch sought relief at nature's fountain. Thus, those waters which had already become famous, were now patronized by the highest personage in the realm, and the result was the restoration to health of the King of England, and the gradual formation of one of the largest Watering Places in the Kingdom, as the next chapter will demonstrate.

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## CHAPTER XVI.

### *The Town since the Visit of George III.*

THE discovery of the waters did not appear to alter the sanitary state of the place. It was not until seventy years afterwards that the brook which flowed down the High Street was diverted into another course, and a wide carriage road (as at present) formed. This was only effected two years

before the Royal visit of George III. In making the main sewer in the High Street in 1834, the stepping stones, which enabled the inhabitants to hold communication with the opposite sides of the street, were dug up. Several flights of steps were found, of massive oak, opposite the Plough and Crown, and so sound that snuff boxes and other ornamental devices were made from them, and preserved as relics of the past. The engraving in this work, "Cheltenham in the Olden Time," represents the High Street in 1786, and the scene is described in Byrne's Poem on Cheltenham :—

"If but a century since I could have stood,  
Where now, deep musing o'er the past, I stand,  
Mine eye had fallen on stream and bow'ring wood,  
And straw-roof'd cots strowed o'er the pleasant land,  
"Thy wide and straggling street a babbling rill  
Did channel, and the rosy bare-foot maid  
Would oft her earthen pitcher come to fill,  
Where o'er the stones its crystal waters play'd."

It appears that the inhabitants first attempted to stop the course of the Chelt down the centre of the High Street, by a private subscription in 1784. In 1785, "That with the permission and consent of the Lord of the Manor, an application would be made in the next Session of Parliament for leave to bring in a Bill for the paving, repairing, cleansing and lighting of the street of Cheltenham; and for removing the present, and preventing future encroachments, nuisances, and annoyances therein." Cheltenham Guide of 1786, records that until "these few years the water ran through the middle of the street, and in a scarcity stagnated and was offensive; but at present there is a good road through the town, with a channel on each side for the water; and the streets, by a subscription from the inhabitants, assisted by donations from the company, have been in great part new paved." The water which flowed down the High Street in the gutters was used to water the streets. The contract was taken by William Hayward, a mender of chairs, and his wife, under the Old Commissioners' Act, who performed their task by the aid of bundles of straw tied upon a rope. Such was the primitive mode of watering Cheltenham little more than half a century since! The son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Hayward was the sole lamplighter, under the same obsolete

Act. "Till 1786 a stream ran down the middle of the High Street, but in that year an Act was obtained for paving, cleansing, and lighting the streets, and removing obstructions and nuisances. The Commissioners have faithfully discharged the trust reposed in them by this act of the legislature, and now there is an excellent road through the town, with a channel on each side for the water; the houses are numbered, and every improvement is adopted to render the place desirable."—(*Longman's Guide to Watery Places*). The town, by altering the course of the stream, did not lose its ancient right to the use of the water so necessary in a sanitary point of view. The owner of Cambray Mill, now called Barratt's, in after years claimed the whole of the Chelt, but, according to the Town Commissioners' reports, which from time to time appeared in the early numbers of the *Cheltenham Chronicle* (1809 to 1817), the Act of 1786, had wisely provided that the surplus water was to be at the service of the parish, for watering and cleansing the streets, and until within the past forty years, it flowed down in a channel now forming the gutters.

The land without the High Street, was cultivated as farm property. There are many residents who can well remember when the ground now covered with the beautiful estates of Pittville, Montpellier and Lansdown, were devoted to agricultural purposes and considered of little value. The inhabitants at that time had a large quantity of commonable land for their use which must have materially helped to support their local poor, while they also had the privilege of leazing in the fields. "The Good Old Times.—The harvest in this neighbourhood is progressing most favourably. An old inhabitant informs us, as contrasting with the present abundance, that just 57 years ago, his mother, who is still in the enjoyment of a green old age, gleaned with her own hands, in fields within a mile of the Parish Church, sufficient ears of wheat to yield when thrashed, upwards of five bushels of grain. So high was the price of wheat that year that her husband was offered five pounds for these five bushel of leazings. It would be difficult now to glean five bushels within one mile of Cheltenham Parish Church." (*Cheltenham Examiner*, Aug., 1858.)

"The town of Cheltenham runs in almost a straight line one mile in length, having one principal street, with some returns,



lanes, and adjoining houses. Till within these few years the water ran through the middle of it, but at present there is a good road through the town, with a channel on each side for the water ; and the street by an Act of Parliament obtained in 1786, with permission and consent of the Lord of the Manor, has been new paved, cleansed and lighted, the houses numbered, the market houses, signs and spouts pulled down, and other nuisances removed. A New Street is begun, designed to run from the centre of the town to the Spa, (St. George's Place), and besides the accomodations for the reception of visitors in the town itself, lodgings have been fitted up at Charlton, Sandford, Arle, Alstone and Prestbury, and there is no doubt but the inhabitants, who, from the neglected state of this place for near 30 years had been fearful of risking any expense, will, from the great and regular increase of company resorting to it, be convinced that it is their interest to render their lodgings as commodious as possible." (Moreau, 1805).

The only Promenade at this period was a long extended walk from the Parish Church Yard through Church Mead, (now occupied by the Royal Crescent), across the Chelt to the old Old Wells. It is thus described in the first Cheltenham Guide 1781—seven years before Royalty had paid a visit. "On quitting the Church Yard at the S.W. gate, a passage is opened towards the Cheltenham Spa; to which you are conducted first through a well constructed gravel walk, 106 yards long, and ten feet wide, planted on either side with a neat quickset. To the right of this walk within the Grove, in a pretty inclosure shaded with lofty trees, is the Great House, let out in commodious lodgings for the company. Its vicinity to the Long Room and Well renders it a convenient resort for cards, dancing, tea drinking and other parties, who meet here every evening in the week during the season, Mondays excepted, and make a subscription for Mrs. Field, the possessor. You next enter a pleasant field called Church Mead, through this a gravel walk, six feet wide, and above 270 feet in length, leads to the river Chelt; which winds its humble current round the bottom of the Well-walk and other grounds adjacent. A slight draw bridge is thrown over the stream, and introduces to the public parade, whose beauty must strike the most common observer, extending in a straight line





**OLD WELL WALK, CHELTENHAM.**

by a gentle ascent to the famous spring. The length of the several walks, from the churchyard inclusive, to the end of the upper parade, is more than 900 yards. The following is an exact admeasurement taken by a Surveyor :—

	Yards.
Walk through the Church Yard... ..	101
Serpentine walk to Church Mead gate ... ..	106
Through the Mead to the Chelt gate ... ..	190
Thence over the brook, to the bottom of the Parades ... ..	25
The Lower Grand Parade ... ..	200
The Spa Paved Court ... ..	11
The Upper Parade above the Well ... ..	104
The grass walk at the end of the Upper Parade ... ..	200
	<hr/>
	937

Or 2811 feet, that is, above half-a-mile.

(*Cheltenham Guide*, 1781.)

The only means of obtaining provisions at this time was through the medium of a country carrier. Corn, fish, butter, and vegetables were sold at the two old markets which were located in the High Street. The early numbers of the *Cheltenham Chronicle* record the repeated efforts made by the visitors to obtain supplies from the distance. It is a well credited fact, which can be attested by many among the living, that such was the difficulty of obtaining provisions, owing to the imperfect mode of transit, that after a sermon was ended, the preacher used to announce the arrival of a cargo of things "material." This blending of the spiritual and earthly may seem at the present day scarcely credible, but we adduce it to show the commercial state of the place. The first preacher who organised the now large and influential congregation of Wesleyans, and who officiated until 1812, made a custom after the benediction, to inform his hearers that during the week he had been successful in procuring something necessary to support their physical wants at a moderate rate, "which the brethren might obtain upon coming to 128, High Street." This was the well-known and energetic Oliver Watts. The *Cheltenham Chronicle* for 1812, contains a succession of weekly notices complimenting a noble lord for getting fish from the metropolis for the use of the many visitors then in the town.

The history of the town at the period of its transition state from the poor agricultural village to the "Queen of Watering

Places," is further developed in the rise, progress, and permanent establishment of a Post Office. The absence of any direct communication with London and other parts of England, until within the past half century, placed the delivery of letters in the town on a very precarious footing. The mail coach from London, which travelled twice or sometimes three days weekly, did not approach nearer to Cheltenham than Frog Mill, *en route* to Gloucester, and as a consequence, the past history of our local postal arrangements must be one of vicissitude. The documentary evidence at present known does not lead to any other conclusion than that the postal system was not locally commenced until within the present century, as we shall endeavour to detail.

The markets were attended to by an eccentric female, named Nancy Wells, but called "Nanny the bellwoman," who was then almost the only parochial officer in existence—filling the various offices of toll collector, watchman, town crier, post-mistress, &c. This extraordinary character, who died in Pate's Alms-houses, was a very athletic personage; she loaded and unloaded the waggons which came to the corn market, assisted in capturing prisoners, cried the hour of the night, and duly delivered letters, at least within a fortnight after they left the place from whence they were sent. At this period there was only one magistrate, and the administration of justice was quickly done between "Nanny," "Constable Oakey," and the kind-hearted gentleman of the bench. "Nanny the bellwoman" was justly celebrated for the clear and powerful manner in which she announced something "lost," or "stolen," or on "sale by auction." She possessed a very retentive memory, and although unable either to read or write, when a notice of something "lost or stolen," or the direction of a letter was read over to her, she would afterwards remember it. This feminine crier was a very loyal subject, and George III, during the period of his stay at Cheltenham, was one morning passing up the High Street, and on hearing her conclude a public notice with the words "God save the King," the Monarch emphatically exclaimed—"God save the crier and the people."

At a later period there was another feminine officer, who followed much the same calling as her predecessor. This was Nanny Saunders. She devoted her evenings, (lanthorn and

wicker basket in hand, and attired in a red cloak and huge black hat), to the delivery of letters among the inhabitants, and went by the name of "Nanny, the Post Mistress." The London Mail, which passed by Frog Mill on its road to Gloucester, occasionally found means to forward a bag by the carrier to Mrs. Saunders. Nanny's husband, (a cripple from birth) by the aid of a donkey, delivered letters to those who resided in the hamlets and adjacent villages—a somewhat arduous task considering the then condition of the roads. This useful pair in their declining years found shelter in the Church-houses which formerly existed in the church-yard near Chester Walk. Here they subsisted upon benefactions voluntarily given. Some idea may be formed of the imperfect manner in which the delivery was effected at this time from the following fact, which was related to us by the late Mr. J. N. Belcher. That gentleman had been expecting a letter of importance, when one day he accidentally met "Nanny" and made enquiries. She informed him that she had a letter for him, but that "she had something else to do than to bring a single letter to the bottom of the High Street." The epistle was six days after the London post mark date. Another old inhabitant, Mr. Gibbins, informed us that he once accosted "Nanny" with her wicker basket and tape handles, and made enquiries, when she handed to him a letter which had arrived three days previous, alleging the same reason for non-delivery as related in the former instance. A Post Office was opened in 1800 by Mr. Smith, a grocer, at 127, High Street, and at his decease it was transferred to an ironmonger of the same name residing at the next door.

In 1805, Mr. Hayes was sent down from the General Post Office, London, to make local arrangements. He first commenced an office in the High Street, at the entrance to the Rose and Crown passage; and afterwards removed it lower down to the corner of Park Street, adjoining the residence of the late J. N. Belcher, Esq. The arrangements of the London "official" were very unsatisfactory, and subject to continual change. The inhabitants complaining upon the matter, he next adopted the plan of hiring a bellman, who collected the epistles. This worthy man, whose name was Belcher, was attired in red, and was the descendant of an old family in the town. He was locally known as "the red Postman," and on him devolved all

the onerous duties of the entire parish. The following is from a Post Office placard, printed at the office of the *Cirencester Flying Post*, in 1780 :—

“The London Post to Cheltenham,		
GOES OUT		COMES IN
Monday evening, at 10	{	Monday } morning
Wednesday noon, at 12		Thursday }
Saturday evening, at 10		Saturday }
“The Cross Post to and from Gloucester,		
GOES OUT		COMES IN
Sunday afternoon, at 4	{	Monday } afternoon
Wednesday night		Thursday }
Friday „		Saturday }

Mr. Entwisle, the step-father of the Duchess St. Albans, was post-master until 1816. One of his notices was as follows :—“ Letters delivered generally at the window of the Post Office at about a quarter before twelve.” Mr. Hutton, a grocer in the High Street, was another post-master, but no organized system of delivery was adopted at either of the establishments conducted by these individuals. Mr. Cossens, who was afterwards a post-master, at the High Street entrance to Grosvenor-street, published a very excellent map of the town. Mr. Stokes Heynes, carried on a Post Office in Regent Street. The site of the present Imperial Circus, on the Clarence Street side, was the last place where the office was conducted (by Mr. Wall), prior to the erection of the present establishment, which is very centrally situated. Even so recently as 1814, the postal arrangements were extremely precarious, as is evident from the following paragraph in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of January 27 of that year :—“ Yesterday, the mail arrived in this town with six horses from London—the first time for the last seven days.” For a number of years, down to a comparatively recent date, there was only three communications in the week with the metropolis, and the same number of mails in return. Now, indeed, a mighty change has come over the locality. There are now employed in the Cheltenham Post Office a large number of efficient persons, under the management of Mr. J. Nicholson, postmaster, and Mr. Oakden, chief clerk ; and the rapid manner in which letters are received and delivered is almost marvellous, and surpassed only by the quicker motions of the Electric Telegraph. The excellent manner in which the establishment is conducted, renders

it an important appendage to the town. The amount of postage stamps received, and Post Office stamps sold at the Cheltenham office was, in 1855, £9,691, and 1856, £9,760. The amount of money-order business transacted was—1855, issued £53,076, paid £28,525 :—1856, issued £57,227, paid £41,239. In 1859, the postage stamps sold exceeded £10,000, and in 1860, amounted to upwards of £11,000 ! This return is from the Post Office only, and does not include the stamps sold at the sub-distributor's office, or those obtained by commercial firms from the metropolis. In 1861, the staff of the Cheltenham Post Office consisted of a Postmaster, six clerks, twelve letter carriers, four auxiliary letter carriers and two stampers. The letter carriers deliver one mile and a quarter from the Post Office, the auxiliaries being employed in the morning only. The number of bags received daily are 51, and the same number of despatches. There are two deliveries daily. The postal district is upwards of 60 miles in circumference, extending to Stanton, Ford, Naunton, Sherborne, Winson, Combe End, Bentham, Badgworth, Barrow, Leigh, Hardwick, Stoke Orchard, Wolstone, and Oxenton. This district is delivered by twenty-three messengers, six of whom start from and return to the chief office, the others starting from and returning to the branch offices at Charlton Kings, Andoversford, Northleach, and Winchcomb, from whence the letters are conveyed to the chief office in mail carts. There are also twenty-one sub-post-offices in different parts of the district, from which the letters are collected by the messengers on their return. The number of letters on an average delivered weekly are 39,226 in Cheltenham, and 5,969 in the district, giving a total of 45,195. The number of newspapers delivered weekly in Cheltenham and district is 8,142. The number of money orders issued at the Cheltenham office for the six months ending June 30, 1861, was 15,175, and the amount £28,409 6s., the commission paid being £249 15s., giving a total of £28,659 1s. The number of orders paid for the same period was 12,450, and the amount £23,140 4s. 2d. We thus see by comparing the present large amount of business transacted at our local office, with what was done by the single-handed letter-carrier of half a century since, further proof of the rapid increase in population which the town has made. Within the memory of the living, a poor old



woman met the postal requirements of the inhabitants by devoting her evenings to the delivery of letters after her daily work was over. Now, upwards of two millions of letters are delivered to the Cheltenham residents in a year, and the delivery gives permanent employment to twenty-three persons, besides those engaged upon the district mails, where no railway communication has been established.

The health-diffusing springs which scattered with no sparing hand that gift which constitutes the chief blessing of life, were made manifest in the restoration to health of the Royal family. It was a rude building, indeed, which received the morning visits of Royalty at our primitive Spa. There was then no modern town to astonish the sojourner. Nature was the only enchanter, save the virtues of the waters, which could engage the attention of the Royal visitants. It is surprising to consider the smallness of the population and the dearth of houses at this period. When George III. and suite arrived in the town, the number of lodging-houses did not exceed thirty, and the entire Hundred contained but 800 habitations. But, from the time of the Royal visit, there has been a rapid increase both in the number of inhabitants and houses. The annexed table exhibits at one view the population of the ancient Hundred of Cheltenham, from the time of Charles II. to the reign of Queen Victoria. The Hundred included most of the parishes now connected with the Cheltenham Union under the New Poor Law Act.

CENSUS WHEN TAKEN.	NUMBER OF INHAB- ITANTS IN HUNDRED.	NUMBER OF HOUSES.
1666	1,500	321
1797	2,700	530
1801	3,076	710
1811	8,325	1556
1821	13,388	2411
1824	17,647	2912
1825	19,160	3464
1826	21,378	4027
1831	22,942	6014
1841	36,617	7365
THE PARISH ONLY.		
1851	35,062	6348
1861	39,590	7013

This return for the past twenty years, is confined to the parish only, and does not include those contiguous places which may be called a continuation of the town, such as the Park Estate, portions of the Pittville Estate, and parts of the London and of Hale's Roads. These out-parishes in 1861, numbered 10,098, so that the entire population of the Cheltenham Union, and over which the poor's rate is levied, amounts to 49,688, as shown by the official return annexed :

	1851.	1861.	Increase.
Cheltenham Parish.....	35,062	39,590	4,528
Charlton Kings .....	3,171	3,443	270
Prestbury.....	1,315	1,297	—
Leckhampton .....	2,150	2,522	271
Badgworth .....	874	1,038	174
Shurdington .....	173	164	—
Up-Hatherley.....	50	68	18
Uckington .....	173	195	22
Swindon .....	221	227	6
Cubberley .....	243	343	100
Cowley .....	315	311	—
Great Witcomb .....	167	165	—
Staverton .....	276	315	39
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>44,190</b>	<b>49,688</b>	<b>5,498</b>

This return is, a most convincing proof of the growing popularity of the "Queen of Watering Places" in public estimation, and we need no stronger argument in its favour than the exact results of the census of 1861, so far as regards the Parliamentary borough of Cheltenham. At the last decennial census the population of the borough was returned at 35,062. It is now 39,590. Of these the number of males is 16,474, and of females 23,116, showing a fair majority of 6,642! The total increase of the population in this decade is 4,528; and our townsmen may well be congratulated on a fact which affords such gratifying proof of the healthy developement of the town. Nor is the result of the numbering of the people in what we may call the suburbs of Cheltenham at all less satisfactory. Leckhampton has now 2,522 inhabitants, against 2,150 in 1851; and Charlton Kings has 3,443, against 3,171 in 1851. From these statistical facts it will be apparent the average annual increase in the town alone is about 500, and the population during the ten past years have exceeded by 5,000 persons, the previous ten years. This is a striking proof of the steady

progress that the place has been making. Another additional incident also proves that a still further acceleration of numbers is going on. This is the fact that there are few vacant houses, and those that are "to let," have many competitors, and the result is an increased rental and consequent enhancement in the value of property. According to the census during the ten years preceding 1861, the number of new houses that had been erected amounted to 670, and those were of an expensive character. And if additional proof was wanting, it will be found in the Registrar's Returns for the year ending in July, 1861, which shows that during the past twelve months 1082 births had taken place in the town, being an excess of 400 over the deaths for the same period. The marriages for the same time exceeded 500 in number.

Miss Porter, the eminent authoress, in her "Memoirs of Sir Edward Seward," relates, that when that gentleman was journeying from London to Gloucester, in the year 1736, he arrived at Cheltenham late in the evening and desired to remain for the night, but could not obtain a lodging, and was obliged to proceed on to Gloucester!

Fosbroke, the county historian, thus describes the condition of Cheltenham in 1798,—when he first visited it:—"A double range of buildings above the Plough, were considered to be the only habitations fit for the reception of high wealth and title. These High-street houses had balconies, for there was not a verandah in the whole town. The two turnpikes were indeed soldier drest with whitewash, paint, gay lamps, and cheap tawdries of strong effect. The High Street was of motley character, the houses being of all heights, forms, and descriptions. A low thatched house with a gable end, and antique bay windows, of horn coloured glass, and leaden reticulations, adjoined a flat dwelling, and displayed two shop windows, and next to this was a slim London three or four storied house, with a railed area, ascent up steps, narrow passage, and front and back parlour. The footway of the street was partially paved; but towards the Gloucester end, there was only a gravelled causeway, intersected at short intervals by open drains."

With the exception of two small Dissenting burial grounds, the whole of the past interments of the parish were confined to the Established Church, as were also the Baptisms and

Marriages previous to the passing of the New Registration Act. We are therefore enabled to further illustrate the rapid progress which has been going on in Cheltenham, by extracts from the parish register, which will reveal the number of Marriages, Baptisms and Burials registered from the reign of Queen Elizabeth :—

Year.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
From November 1558 to November 1559	20	6	32
From November 1559 to November 1560	31	21	32
From March 1630 to March 1631	44	7	44
From March 1730 to March 1731	26	14	32
From January 1803 to January 1805	90	49	83
From December 1830 to December 1831	667	197	332
From December 1831 to December 1832	635	258	415

Mr. J. Shenton, a printer, of the town, who commenced business in 1786, and grandfather of Mr. T. B. Shenton, published a Cheltenham Directory in 1800. This work, the first of its kind, contains a complete list of the then inhabitants, and the entire number of names are printed on 24 pages—each page averaging 16 names. Contrast this state of things with the contents of “Harper’s Directory,” published in 1844. This work was a copy from the Poor’s Rate Book, and the only one which classified the trades verbatim. It contained 400 pages, with an average of 70 names on each page. From that work it will be seen that there were 4,323 persons engaged in trade, while the number of inhabited houses were upwards of 7000. The same authority also enables us to compare the past and present state of the town in reference to particular trades. There were then 56 bakers and confectioners ; 88 grocers and tea dealers ; 50 butchers ; 173 licensed victuallers ; 43 librarians and stationers ; 167 milliners and dress makers ; and 300 lodging-house keepers. Sixty years ago, there was only one resident physician in Cheltenham—the celebrated Dr. Jenner, and but one dispensing chemist ! In 1844, there were 80 medical men, and 30 chemists and druggists. “Davies’s Annuaire” for 1860, in its list of the principal tradesmen in the town, mentions the names of 926 persons. “Edwards’s Directory” for 1862, enumerates 924 persons engaged in retail trade, and 229 persons following professions. At the period the mineral waters were first becoming known, Dr. Smith, from Oxford, resided here during the drinking season, and gave advice to the visitors. He is entered in the Poor Rate Books from

1722, and for many years afterwards, as the sole resident medical man—"Dr. Smith, surgeon, two shillings and sixpence"—the amount of his annual rate. On a tablet in the Parish Church, he is recorded to have given a sconce, or pendant chandelier, to enable the inhabitants to have an evening service. This was used until the Gas Company gratuitously lighted the church in 1828, when the Doctor's bequest was set aside, and a few years since, as may be seen on reference to the churchwardens' accounts, it was sold for old metal, and the proceeds applied to the parish account. Dr. Jameson, the author of the first local "Treatise on the Waters," appears to have been an early resident, and was an opponent of Dr. Jenner, on the question of vaccination, and regarded the theory, then first broached, as visionary. Time has however proved which of our two townsmen were right. In a "Cheltenham Guide," published in 1783, and which details all the then tradesmen in the town, for the information of visitors, no resident baker or confectioner is named, but the tourist is politely informed "that just below the Well is a farm-house, called 'Gallipot,' where parties may be accommodated with 'Syllabub.'" In a speech made by the Rev. C. B. Trye, the respected rector of Leckhampton, at a public dinner given in January, 1862, to celebrate the extension of the public gas lights from Cheltenham to Leckhampton, the rev. speaker remarked—"I well remember, when a boy, there was only ten houses from Leckhampton to Suffolk Square, which at that time was the site of the thatched cottage, called 'Gallipot Farm,' and when the only carriage road to Gloucester was over the Crickley Road."

The past and present history of the town is further developed by the gradual rise in the assessable value of the property within the parish. We have seen in a previous chapter that in 1727 there were 158 heads of families entered on the Poor Rate Book, who were charged "fourpence in the pound on their dwellings, and threepence on their unbuilt lands." The entire sum collected amounted to £12 14s. 1½d. At this date, the Plough, then occupied by Mr. Pope, was rated at £6 per annum. The Rate-book of 1741 presents no alteration in point of numbers, or in the assessments, but the Rate-book of 1763 shows an increase of the number of rate-payers, but no improvement in the value of the property. In 1806, Mr. Thornton was elected

Poor-rate collector, with a salary of £5 per annum. According to the original Rate-book, the amount realised was only £199 19s. 1d., at ninepence in the pound—a proof of the small number of rate-payers in the town at that period. The value of property in the town in 1811, as set forth in the Rate-book, is interesting and curious, and shows a rapid increase in the rateable value of local property. The Old Commissioners issued a rate of two shillings and sixpence in the pound, under the Paving Act, from Midsummer 1811 to Midsummer, 1812. From the collector's book it appears that, in that year, there were 1261 houses assessed in the town, 25 in Westall, and four in Alstone. The total amount of the rate was £2,334 13s. 0½d. In this book the annual value of the undermentioned places are thus assessed:—Plough Hotel, £133; Assembly Rooms, £88; Public Office, £44; the late Mrs. Agg's residence, £35; Clarence Hotel, £44; the Grammar School, £15; Gardener's Brewery, £84; the Fleece, £71. The following localities are described as being "Outside the town":—Sherborne Street, Gloucester Place, North Parade, back part of Lamb Inn, Portland Street, Portland Place, and the Hon. Miss Monson's, now known as Monson Villa, and once the residence of the Rev. F. Close. How different are the results of modern levies of the poor-rate. In 1844 a poor-rate of ninepence in the pound yielded £15,706, 14s. 8½d., and in 1848, the number of rate-payers were 6,635, and a rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound amounted to £22,000 (net). In the same year the Commissioners' Lamp and Paving Rate, at 1s. 4d. in the pound, was estimated at £9,304 10s. 8d. The window-tax for the like period for the township only, amounted to £13,374. In 1849, the assessable value of property in the parish was £182,098. In 1851, the Poor-law Commissioners divided the town into five wards, for the better carrying out of the purposes of their Act. The number of ratepayers in each ward, with the amount of assessment, was thus returned:—

Wards.	Ratepayers.	Assessmt.
East—from Charlton to East side of Portland-street.....	1638	£40,000
North—from North side of Portland-st. to Tewkesbury-road .....	1793	30,000
West—from Gloucester-road to St. George's-place .....	1115	34,000
South—from Rodney-terrace to Old Bath-road .....	991	29,000
Middle—from St. George's-place to Rodney-terrace .....	891	50,000
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>6128</b>	<b>£183,000</b>

The number of houses now liable to be rated is 7275. The assessable value of property in the town, as entered in the Overseers' book for 1861, and upon which the rates are levied, is £171,291. The two poor-rates founded upon that assessment amounted to—the one at one shilling and threepence in the pound, £10,705 13s. 9d., and the other, at one shilling in the pound, to £8,395 5s., making a total of £19,100 18s. 9d. So that we may say that Cheltenham now contributes annually about £20,000 towards the maintenance of its local poor, and for other purposes in connection, through the medium of a poor's rate. The borough-rate, at two shillings in the pound, levied by the Improvement Commissioners during the same period, amounted to £14,741 3s., according to the audited report, published in July, 1861. The payment on account of the branch sewers' account for the same time was £3,799 6s. The same body corporate estimated for the year 1862, the assessable value of property rateable for the Borough-rate, at £166,056, 10s., and that a rate of two shillings in the pound would produce £16,605 13s. The value rateable to the Sewers-rate was estimated at £160,980 5s., and subject to special arrangements, a rate of fourpence half-penny in the pound would realise £1,610.

The income and property tax, and inhabited house and other duties, evince the wealth and importance of the place. These taxes are collected according to the ancient divisions of the parish—the town, north and south, and the Lansdown and Bayshill districts under the name of the hamlets of Alstone and Westal. The amounts collected under the different schedules, A, B, D, and E, for the year ending April 5, 1861, was as follows :—

INCOME TAX FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 5, 1861.

	A			B			D			E			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Alstone .....	1260	17	1	39	5	2	542	2	0				1842	4	3
Arle .....	129	15	8	31	5	5							161	0	8
Cheltenham North	2783	14	8	20	6	2	1790	14	10	539	2	6	5133	18	2
Cheltenham South	1865	18	0	1	1	1	2561	19	9	183	17	6	4612	16	4
Westal .....	1851	9	11	10	16	9	1138	15	6	499	1	2	3500	3	4
	7891	14	11	102	14	7	6033	12	1	1222	1	2	15250	2	9

HOUSE AND OTHER DUTIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 5, 1861.—Inhabited house duty, £4706 1s. 11½d.; Horses for riding, £491 8s.; Carriages, £858 13s. 4d.; Mules and horses, £142 16s.; Servants, £632 12s. 6d.; Dogs, £452 8s.; Horse Dealers' duty, £96 8s.; Armorial bearings, 499 19s. 8d.; Total assessment, £7880 4s. 5½d.

The present prosperous and wealthy condition of the town has thus been established by the financial statements we have above given. In order to place the matter in a still clearer light, we present, in a tabular form, for reference, a summary of one year's payment of rates and taxes by the inhabitants of Cheltenham, from the official accounts, as audited in 1861:—

	£	s.	d.
Poor's Rate ... ..	19,000	18	9
Borough Rate " " " " " "	14,741	3	0
Income and Property Tax ... ..	15,250	2	9
Inhabited House Duty ... ..	4,706	1	11½
Duty on Carriages ... ..	858	13	4
" on Servants ... ..	632	12	6
" on Armorial Bearings ... ..	499	19	8
" on Horses ... ..	634	4	0
" on Dogs ... ..	452	8	0
Land Tax ... ..	135	12	2½

The above gives a grand total of £56,911 16s. 1½d., as the contributions from this town towards the direct taxation of the country; and by comparing these figures with the returns of former years, we find exhibited in a striking manner the advance of Cheltenham in wealth and prosperity.

The small number of residents at the commencement of the present century is also apparent from the very simple manner in which judicial and criminal cases were disposed of. One resident magistrate, and a constable, who united with his office various others, including that of town crier, was all the staff required. The prison, locally called "The Blind House," was a small stone structure situated in the Fleece Lane (Henrietta St.), and not capable of containing more than one prisoner. Through apertures, protected by iron bars, the inmate held converse with the passers by, and often obtained sums of money, which procured their release. Attached to this small rude structure were the stocks. These accompaniments of an agricultural village were used for divers offences. The most frequent occupant was a local character known as "Oyster Jack." He



persisted in crying oysters in the streets on a Sunday during the hours of Diving Service. For this offence he was regularly placed in the stocks Sabbath after Sabbath, until the officials abandoned prosecution. A prison of a substantial character was afterwards erected at the angle of Ambrose Street, which is now used for mercantile purposes, and was sold by the Old Commissioners, at the time the New Police Act came in force. Stocks were also added to the building, but the only person ever placed in them was for non-payment of a fine for intoxication. After being in durance for a short time, the spectators subscribed the amount, and the man was released.

The want of accommodation in the town is apparent from the following letter from a visitor, which may be found in the *Morning Post*, of September 6, 1780:—"Mr. Editor,—I am just returned from a little tour through the West of England. Amongst the number of places I visited, Cheltenham in Gloucestershire detained me some days, being a town now growing into repute, from the great increase of company this year, who go to drink the mineral spa water. I shall trouble you with a sketch of the town and its inhabitants, which may perhaps be of service to those who frequent it in future. The town of Cheltenham, from its situation, would in all probability have remained unnoticed until the end of time, had not the Spa attracted the attention of the public. This seems to be the general opinion of the inhabitants, if we may judge from the little pains they have taken to decorate or improve themselves or habitations. They likewise seem displeased that chance should ever have brought them to public notice, by their constant opposition to every improvement for the convenience and accommodation of those who visit them. This narrow-minded mode of thinking, we may naturally conclude, leads them on to insolence and imposition. Thus, emerging as they are from a state of obscurity, did they possess the understanding of rational creatures, we might expect to see attention, assiduity and care to deserve the favours of the public; but this seems to be distant from their ideas; and those whose health necessarily obliges them to go there, must think themselves highly indebted to the public spirit of Mr. Miller, of London, for the great exertion of his fortune and abilities, to render the place in the least sufferable. I am, &c., T. G. Saturday night, Sept. 2, 1780."

In the second "Cheltenham Guide," published in 1783, occur these announcements:—"There are two sedan chairs at Cheltenham, the owners of which, from the very little use that is made of them, will not carry any fare under a shilling." "A coffee-house and some good boarding-houses are much wanted in the town; and would certainly answer to the establishers of them." "Just above the well is a farm-house, known by the name of 'Gallipot,' at which parties are accommodated with 'syllabub.'" "A common brewery has lately been established here by Mr. Wynne." "The Circulating Library.—Mr. Harward, the proprietor, desirous to oblige his customers, takes very good care to furnish his library with every new publication worthy notice. The subscription five shillings for the season. He also lets out harpsichords, piano-fortes, and other musical instruments, and provides persons to tune them."

As a specimen of the class of amusements that were then patronised, we transcribe a hand-bill printed by Mr. Harward, the resident librarian here alluded to, whose death is recorded in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* for 1811, and whose relative, the Rev. J. Harward, in connection with T. Henney, Esq., planned the present Promenade.

"Positively for Three Days Only.—The Original Stone-Eater.

"At a Large Commodious Room, at the Bell Inn, in this Town. Stone Eating, and Stone Swallowing, and after the Stones are Swallowed, may be heard to chink in his Belly, the same as in a Pocket.

"The present is allowed to be the age of wonders, and improvements in the Arts! The idea of a Man's flying in the Air; twenty years ago, before the discovery of use of Balloons, would have been laughed at by the most credulous! Nor does the history of nature afford so extraordinary a relation as that of a Man's eating and subsisting on Pebbles, Flints, Tobacco Pipes, or Mineral Excrescences—but so it is! and the Ladies and Gentleman, of this town and its vicinity, have now an opportunity of witnessing the extraordinary fact, by seeing one of the most wonderful Phenomena of the age, who Grinds and Swallows Stones, &c., with as much ease as a Person would crack a nut, and masticate a kernel.

"This extraordinary Stone Eater appears not to suffer the least inconvenience from so ponderous, and to all other persons

in the World, so indigestible a meal, which he repeats from Eleven to One, at noon, and also from Four in the afternoon, till Six in the evening.

"N.B.—As his stay in this town will be only Three Days; therefore it is hoped Ladies and Gentlemen will avail themselves of the opportunity of seeing this wonderful performance.

"Admittance One Shilling. A private Performance, on a short Notice."

Sedan Chairs appear to have been the only means of fashionable conveyance up to 1810. In that year the *Cheltenham Chronicle* records that "Mr. Jonathan Wildey has, with a public spirit, which is highly commendable, remedied a great deficiency in this place, by establishing a job carriage, which he has set up in so liberal and handsome a style, that there can be no doubt of his meeting with that encouragement which he deserves." In the same paper is an advertisement from Mr. Wildey, who describes his vehicle as "an elegant Landau, with able horses and careful driver; and humbly recommends it as a very useful conveyance to and from the Ball and Play. Parties wishing to take an airing with it may be accommodated." This attempt at introducing the luxury of a modern fly was a failure, and brought its promoter to the Bankruptcy Court in twelvemonths afterwards.

A remnant of the days when the town enjoyed its village-like character is to be found in the Fairs and Mops, or Statutes, still continued from time immemorial. These, according to old custom, were held in the High Street, but a clause in the new Improvement Act removed the standings to the Market Place. These fairs are held on the second Thursday in April, on Holy Thursday, the 5th of August, the Thursday before and after Michaelmas-day, the second Thursday in September, and the third Thursday in December. The Michaelmas Fairs are called Mops, and the hiring of farm-servants takes place at them. All kinds of cattle and provisions are brought to market. The horses are collected for sale at the top of Winchcomb Street and Albion Street; horned cattle and sheep near Henrietta Street; and pigs in the Fleece Yard. The Cattle Fairs have been held during the past century in various localities, and are now held in the public highways mentioned, until some more suitable place shall be provided.



OLD WELL WALK, CHELTENHAM.



The *Morning Post* during the visit of George the Third in 1788 relates the change the town had undergone in a series of paragraphs as follows :—

“In consequence of the overflow of Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Prestbury are crowded. Lodgings have increased in such a degree, and at such a rate, that for apartments let the preceding season at *three guineas*, no less than *twenty-five guineas* per week have been asked and received.”

“Cheltenham will be the summer village of all that is fashionable and all that is dignified, the residence of the royal family being a thing quite new, so far from the metropolis. Already we hear nothing but Cheltenham modes—the *Cheltenham cap*—the *Cheltenham bonnet*—the *Cheltenham buttons*—the *Cheltenham buckles*; in short, all the fashions are completely *Cheltenhamized* throughout Great Britain. The approaching fashion of attending the steps of majesty, will complete the of its prosperity.”

In “*A Tour to Cheltenham Spa*,” edition of 1805, it is said that “The market is on Thursday, when butter and poultry are brought from the neighbouring villages; and since the great increase of visitors, the country people bring in poultry, and the hucksters bring salmon, eels, gudgeons, carp, tench, and other fresh water fish, from the Severn every day in the week during the season; and in the months of July and August, samlets or botchers from 4lb. to 6lb. or 7lb. each; lobsters or cray fish once or twice a week, but always on Tuesday from Oxford; soles and other sea fish, by the carriers from Bath. Trout and Jack may be had by giving orders at Cirencester.”

How changed are matters since this was recorded! By the aid of that mighty power—steam, the Cheltenham fishmonger can now supply his customers with the choicest qualities daily. One sign of progress was the election of a Master of the Ceremonies. The number of visitors in 1780 had reached to 370, and it was found necessary to secure the service of a person who could regulate the amusements. The first choice was a fortunate one and the gentleman selected was one every way qualified. He was a person of high literary attainments, and was the author of the first “*Cheltenham Guide*,” Simeon Moreau, Esq., retained his situation to the period of his death in December 1810. He had the honour of receiving his Majesty

George the Third on the occasion of his visit ; and on his Majesty's recovery from the dangerous illness which attacked him, soon after, Mr. Moreau caused gold and silver medals to be struck to commemorate the happy event. He lies interred in the centre of the Parish Church. A plain flat stone, on which is simply inscribed his name, his office, and time of his decease, is all that denotes his resting place. His successor was James King, Esq., of Bath, who died in 1816. The next elected officer was A. Fotheringham, Esq., whose death occurred on the morning of Saturday, January 20th, 1820, under circumstances that deserve a passing note. His lamented lady expired, after a short illness, on the previous Sunday ;—and at the very moment when the hearse arrived to convey her remains to the grave, his widowed heart gave way and he died at the sight of the mourning cortege. On the Tuesday following they were interred together at Prestbury, in the same vault wherein five of their children had in one year been laid. The number of visitors had by this time so far increased that the office of M.C., was sought far as a situation that was both honourable and remunerative. Three candidates now offered themselves—Charles H. Marshall, Esq., Captain Clough and Captain Smith. The votes recorded were for the first named 228, for the second 200, and for the last 21. Mr. Marshall filled the office until 1835. On Mr. Marshall's resignation, two gentlemen came forward as candidates for the situation—Captain Kirwan and Mr. Sisson. Captain Kirwan, who has since been promoted to the rank of Lieut-Colonel, was elected on June 8th, 1835, by a majority of 235 votes, and is the present M.C.

Another sign of the town's progress, and allied to the office of M.C., was the establishment of Assembly Rooms in succession, first small, then larger, until ultimately the present one was erected, which for its size and period of erection stands without a rival in England. The first fashionable gatherings were in the "Long Room," at the original Spa, next were the "Upper and Lower Rooms," in the High Street, which were under the controul of a committee of amusements elected in 1791. The present Assembly Rooms were first opened under the most auspicious circumstances on the evening of July 29, 1816, upon which occasion the immediate patronage and presence of the "Hero of a hundred fights," graced the ceremony. It is indeed an interesting fact

that these magnificent Rooms were publicly opened by the Duke and Duchess of Wellington. The ceremony was attended by 1,400 of the aristocracy. This magnificent suite of rooms cost nearly £60,000. Eleven costly and superb chandeliers are suspended from the ceiling of the great Ball Room, which has long been admired for its extent and decorations. The ceiling and walls are ornamented with relief figures of exquisite workmanship. At the Southern end of the room is one of the largest windows in the locality, covering nearly the breadth. Pilasters with Corinthian capitals are arranged on all sides. The cornice is rich, the frieze ornamented with groups of figures, festoons, and roses, delicately coloured. The ceiling is relieved by a great variety of splendid pateras, enwreathed with entwining laurel oak and vine leaves, with clusters of grapes intermingling. In 1861, during the proprietorship of Mr. Buckman, the Ball Room was re-embellished with great taste and at great outlay. The beautiful and delicate frescos are brought out in fine relief.

The change from village to town is also perceptible in the laying down of stone pavements, and the introduction of street lamps. Prior to the Royal visit the only lights of a night were those provided by Captain Skillicorne, and these were to be seen only on ball nights, in the avenue leading to "The Long Room." The Commissioners' Act of 1786, gave them the power of erecting 120 oil lamps in the public streets, which they effected in the following year. They, however, were not of a brilliant character, for the contract expresses "that they are to burn bright only one hour after the moon rises." The local darkness by night was not much better enlivened in more recent times. The *Cheltenham Chronicle* of 1810, contains a suggestion for painting the street posts white instead of black, to prevent accident by night, in consequence of the imperfect manner in which the town was lighted. The application of gas lamps to the public streets was made in 1818, under a special Act of Parliament, and for many years afterwards the High Street was alone lighted. With the exception of the Montpellier Promenade, which was first lighted in 1825, the houses and streets without the High Street were not provided with any means of lighting except at the expense of the owners or occupiers. It was a common thing to see the evening attendants at the Parish Church who resided "outside the High Street,"



(as the rate-books then designated it) carrying their lighted lantern. The author has witnessed the Rev. Sir R. Woleseley, Bart., who died in 1852, at the age of 92, regularly proceed with a lighted lantern, after the evening service, to his residence at the bottom of the present Rodney Terrace, followed by a domestic, also a lantern bearer. This now lively and cheerful part of the town, thirty years ago presented a very rural appearance, and the present Woleseley House was then a thatched cottage, surrounded with trees so thickly grown that scarce a glimpse of a residence could be seen. Woleseley Terrace occupies the site of this once wild and rural locale. What a change has taken place during that short period! There are now upwards of 800 lamps lighted by gas, and extending over every street in the parish, at a cost of £4,299 annually.

Another proof of the increase in the number of visitors and residents is to be found in the size and abundance of Hotels and Inns which now stud almost every principal street. This has arisen from the large number of travellers. In the eighteenth century, "A stage coach holding six, and a diligence carrying three passengers," were the only means of conveyance from the metropolis to the town, and then the passengers were set down at Frog Mill, on the London Road, and had to find their way as they best could. Since then upwards of seventy coaches have arrived and departed from Cheltenham daily, and the steam carriage is now incessantly pouring in, at two local Railway Stations, its hundreds of passengers hourly from all parts of the world. This state of things called into operation the spirit of enterprise in the erection of suitable hotels. From the many that belong to the place we have selected two for illustration on account of their architectural features and large extent. The Plough is the oldest establishment, and is mentioned in the accounts of the town long prior to the discovery of the Spa Waters. An original painting is preserved, representing it as it stood at this period. This picture suggested the larger ones which were used at the Centenary Fete at Pittville, in 1840, and which represented the Plough in 1733, and as it now stands.

The Plough Hotel has been gradually increasing in size and accommodation ever since the town was first called into notice by the discovery of the Mineral Waters. From first to last

it has enjoyed a great amount of patronage. Even so early as 1798, in "The Cambrian Directory," a work executed by a gentleman after a tour, it is said, under the head Cheltenham; "Best Inn—the Plough Hotel." The Plough Hotel has been the place of abode of some of the most distinguished visitors who have honoured the town with their presence. In 1835, when Her Majesty's uncle, the Duke of Cambridge, was a sojourner, His Royal Highness selected the Plough as his place of residence, and expressed his satisfaction upon departing, at the excellent character of the arrangements.



The largest and most imposing public building of which the town can boast, is the Queen's Hotel, designed by R. W. Jerrard, Esq., and opened as an Hotel on July 21, 1838. The site was well calculated to display the architectural beauties of this noble structure, being situate on a summit commanding a view of the double avenue of trees forming the Promenade extending to the High Street, and the ever verdant range of the Cotswold Hills in the distance, altogether one of the most

beautiful and picturesque situations to be found in any inland town in England. The Queen's Hotel has a grand portico entrance, combining an arcade with six lofty columns reposing on it. The columns and entablature are imitations of the Temple of Jupiter at Rome,—one of the finest structures which has been preserved of Roman architecture. On the ground now occupied by the Queen's Hotel formerly stood the Imperial Spa, a building possessing architectural merit, which was removed to its present position in the Promenade, to give place to its more lofty successor. This Hotel was built in year 1837, at a cost of upwards of £40,000, and comprises on the principal and upper floors, 70 best bed chambers, 30 servants' sleeping apartments, 16 elegant sitting rooms, richly embellished, and 2 excellent suites of apartments. On the ground floor are a noble entrance hall and principal staircase, secondary staircases, spacious coffee-room, 50 feet by 22 feet, two elegant drawing rooms, suite of four handsome apartments, billiard rooms, and all requisite domestic offices. In 1852, the Hotel having been purchased by Mr. W. S. Davis, of the Promenade Boarding House, the new possessor beautified and repaired it, both within and without. The new proprietor has spared no expense in embellishing the entire building. In front of the space before the entrance are two fine pieces of cannon taken at Sebastopol in 1856, and erected on pedestals at a cost of £300 to commemorate the names of distinguished individuals who died in the war, belonging to Cheltenham. These relics of war were placed in their present position after a public procession on July 5, 1858, and the ceremony of inauguration was preformed by Rear-Admiral Sir Maurice Berkeley now Lord Fitzhardinge, and Col. Berkeley, M. P. They are a source of considerable attraction to visitors, and the artistic skill displayed in the iron-work upon which they are elevated, render them an ornament to the beautiful Promenade, whose view they terminate at the highest point.

"We are mounted at last with due honour and state,  
 We are placed where the high born, the lowly, the great,  
 Repass us so often, we really feel proud,  
 And consent to be silent for aye to the crowd.  
 We are captured and taken, but oh! by my side  
 Your brightest, your noblest, your dear ones have died,  
 As mementoes of these we are destined to be  
 In Cheltenham fair home of the brave and the free."

*Cheltenham Examiner, July, 1858.*

"If the price of land be any criterion of the degree of estimation in which a place is held, a late sale has furnished a strong presumption that Cheltenham has not yet attained its full size and consequence ;—Of three small orchards, one containing little more than an acre, and divided into two lots, was sold for £1863 10s.; another about an acre and a half for £1156 10s., and a third about two acres for £1188. Total for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres, £4208! We remember this very ground selling but a few years ago at what was thought a high price, about £90 an acre." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, July 20, 1809.) "A striking proof of the increase of value in this place—A small house in the High Street, which was let 20 years back for £12, now returns the annual rent of one hundred guineas."—(*Cheltenham Chronicle*, 1816). The tax collector also appears to have been benefitted by the change. "So far back as 17 George III, the Spa at Cheltenham was made the first instance in this country of a rate being payable on any portion of the profits of mineral waters."—(*Weller*). "Prosperity of Cheltenham.—It has been mentioned, as a remarkable proof of the prosperous condition of this town, that in three days there has been deposited, by servants, employees, &c., in the Permanent Mutual Benefit Building Society, of which Mr. J. Downing is trustee, no less a sum than £3,096."—(*Cheltenham Examiner*, June 8, 1859.) The published account for 1860 of this Benefit Society shows the receipts for the year to have been £16,607 11s. 7d., and the assets £36,227 10s. 9d. But, perhaps no fact can more strikingly illustrate the great change that has taken place in the value of local property than the ancient and modern worth of the manorial rights. In 1628, when the manor was purchased of the Prince of Wales, by Mr. Dutton, the sum paid was only £1200, but when it was last purchased in 1843, it realised £39,000! Another instance of prosperous reversion was thus announced in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* in 1826 :—"In the time of Charles the Second, the great grandfather of Mr. Wood, the banker at Gloucester, purchased a quantity of land at Cheltenham at five pounds an acre; which same land the latter is now selling at the rate of 1,000 guineas per acre." Mr. Davies, in his "Cheltenham Past and Present," remarks that in 1739, "Lady Stapleton had built for her private residence a spacious mansion, a short distance west of the Church, overlooking in the direction

of the Wells, the meadow then called Church-mead, and through which, in after time, two gravelled footpaths conducted—the one to the bridge and the lower end of St. George's Place, and the other to the entrance of the Old Wall Walk, which was entered over a slight draw-bridge here thrown across the Chelt. This mansion, then called the 'Great House,' was, after her ladyship's death, converted into a boarding-house." This house was the Clarence Hotel, and stood on the site of the Temporary Church, and the Royal Crescent has been built upon Church-mead. According to a drawing in the possession of W. N. Skillicorne, Esq., taken in 1748, it would seem that not more than four houses of any description were then scattered over a tract of country which subsequently became the sites of the Crescent, the Promenades, the extensive districts of the Montpelier, Suffolk, Bays Hill, and Lansdown estates, with the populous surrounding neighbourhoods.

Thus, as in the case of Weymouth and Brighton, it required the countenance of Royalty to stamp the fashion, which the King's visit did in 1788; since when Cheltenham has continued to enjoy, in a most marked degree, the patronage of the fashionable world. Indeed visitors, for the sake of pleasure and amusement, are now as numerous as those who frequent the place for their health; and, as Dr. Gibney remarks, "the natural capabilities of the town are such that many have been tempted to make it their permanent residence." Cheltenham, besides being one of the most beautiful towns in the United Kingdom, ranks pre-eminently as the great attracting centre of fashionable resort; and to what are these its peculiar characteristics to be attributed; but to the great pre-eminent distinction to which the healthful qualities of its waters have attained? These qualities have not been merely tested for a year or two, they have not just risen into sudden importance, into a mere ephemeral notoriety,—their value is the tried result of the experience of a century,—their fame and their advantages increasing as time progresses. For the mildness of its climate, as well as for its native waters, Cheltenham stands alike celebrated. Its vale-like situation shelters it from the stormy blast and wintry chill, and the houses being for the most part detached, a free current of air is spread through all parts of the town. Cheltenham is situated in 51° 51' N. lat., and 2° 5' W long. The main body of the town lies

in an extensive basin open on the South and South West; this basin is 195 feet above the level of the sea, and 135 feet above the level of the city of Gloucester. The many causes which rendered Cheltenham so famous induced visitors to become residents, and thus led to improvements of an unparalleled kind. During the past 30 years, crescents, terraces, promenades, spas, and public edifices, have followed each other in rapid succession, until the whole ground within the parish limits—which is 20 miles in circumference—has been well occupied.

To him who is worn down with disease—whose frame bespeaks languor and prostrated pain—the climate, waters, amusements, and fashionable promenades of this modern Hygeia present unrivalled attractions. The spas, with their beautiful and secluded walks, and fine architectural buildings,—the public balls—the horticultural shows—the gala fetes—the annual races—the concerts—and the extensive hunting studs of the locality, all combine to produce pleasing sensations, and to relieve the pains of the invalid. But, we should do injustice to our subject, did we not state that Cheltenham has also other and higher characteristics to recommend it, besides those just enumerated. We allude to the variety of its places of worship, supplied with faithful and eloquent pastors—to its large educational establishments—to its libraries and reading rooms, and to the advantages which its vicinity affords for studying the sciences of Geology and Botany. When we reflect upon the many important results, we feel amazed at the transformation which Cheltenham has undergone from the mere village to the most fashionable town in Europe. We look back upon the revolutions of the last century, and ask ourselves if it be not a dream of the past, but our researches tell us that it is a reality. Of a truth we may say of Cheltenham that it stands a living monument of unparalleled prosperity and celebrity, acquired by the intrinsic merit of its native waters.

“ Yes all are gone that mark'd the rural scene!

No more thy groves and orchards meet the eye,  
And where the humble village once had been,  
Stand now thy sculptured buildings tow'ring high,  
And gilded spires that climb the azure sky,  
And sweeping terraces, and grand parades,  
And circling crescents! Oh, what place can vie  
With thy fair avenues and cooling shades,  
Or boast such beauteous forms as thine thy promenades!”

*Byron's Ode to Cheltenham.*

We have thus directed attention to Cheltenham past and present. We have seen that a century since it presented all the appearance of a rural village. It was then as much admired for its picturesque and rustic character, as it now is for its varied and beautiful buildings. The great transformation which the place has undergone can be inferred from evidence within the reach of all. Cheltenham originally owed its prosperity, both to the accidental discovery of its mineral waters, and to its village-like nature. Its walks were then its charm. The best proof that can be adduced of the high celebrity in which it has been so long held is the many distinguished persons who have made it the place of their sojourn. Perhaps no watering place in England can show a greater amount of public patronage than this town has received, as the next chapter—devoted to an account of “The Visits of Eminent Persons”—will fully demonstrate. The names still used for houses and streets are memorials of the sojourn of the great and wealthy, and indicate the localities where they resided and the titles which they held, such as Fauconberg, Essex, Clonbrock, Chester, Manchester, Norfolk, Suffolk, Berkeley, Wellington, Regent, Portland, Clarence, Devonshire, Adelaide, Beaufort, Bedford, Brunswick, Camden, Cambridge, Exmouth, Gloucester, Grosvenor, Vernon, Jersey, Lansdown, Northwick, Oxford, Sussex, Sydney, York, Buckingham, Monson, Gordon, Marlborough, Salisbury, Stamford, Warwick, Wolesley, Powers-Court, Somerset, &c.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

### Visits of Eminent Persons.

THE celebrity which Cheltenham has enjoyed since the first discovery of its Mineral Waters, is strikingly apparent from the number of eminent persons who have visited it. Here have repaired Royalty from the troubles of State—the warrior

from the fatigue of the battle-field—the author from the confinement of a literary life. Many of these sojourners rank amongst the most influential personages of modern Europe, and they have put on record, in many instances, the favourable impression which the natural beauties of the town presented to their minds. So early as the year 1781, seven years before the Royal visit, a number of the then visitors published a poetical volume entirely devoted to a description of the native attractions. . One of these productions terminates with an invitation—

“To taste the pleasure Chelt’nam yields,  
To breathe its air and range its fields!  
Here all live friends; no low-born pride  
E’er tries despotic to preside:  
Society here entwines its wreaths,  
Good nature o’er our meetings breathes;  
Its magic look the whole obey,  
Whether at pump, at ball, or play.  
And deep in Chelt’nam’s hallow’d bow’rs,  
The grave might spend their serious hours;  
The gay no languor can invade,  
The poet here may court the shade,  
The beau on smiling beauty stare,  
And pale misfortune dry its tear.”

Cheltenham, 1781.

J. W.-H.-R.

Another very long poem devoted to a detail of the Old Well Walk, with its beautiful avenue of elms, then young and flourishing, concludes—

“But see! another blest retreat,  
A consecrated shade;  
Where neither rain, nor dog-star heat,  
Can touch the swain or maid!  
The friendly shade fair limes compose,  
Whose branches well unite;  
And monarchs sure might envy those  
Who share the calm delight.  
  
Let some the joys of London’s town,  
And courtly pomps admire;  
Or wreath at Baths soft pleasure’s crown,  
If such ambition fire;  
Indulge me, Heavens! I ask no more,  
On this dear spot to dwell;  
And taste of health th’ untainted store,  
That flows round Chelt’nam Well.”

Cheltenham, 1781



We have the highest satisfaction of here recording the visits of many noble and celebrated persons to this "Queen of Watering Places," commencing with one so notable and eventful in its results—the

#### VISIT OF KING GEORGE III.

It was a momentous day in the history of modern Cheltenham when the bells of the Parish Church rung to welcome the royal visit. Moreau, the first Master of the Ceremonies, has thus minutely recorded the arrival of King George the Third:—"In 1788, the King having been advised by his physician, Sir George Baker, to drink the water of Cheltenham Spa, on the 12th of July, at seven in the morning, their Majesties, with the Princess Royal, Augusta, and Elizabeth, left Windsor and proceeded to the Earl of Harcourt's, at Nuneham, in Oxfordshire, where they stopped about two hours. They, after that, renewed their journey to Cheltenham, which they reached about five. Earl Falconberg's house at Baye Hill was prepared for them, and the Earl and Countess of Courtown were ready to receive them. In their tour, they were attended by Lady Weymouth, the Hon. Col. Digby, and Col. Gwynne. It may be very readily conceived that the sight of a Sovereign so well beloved must inspire universal gladness; and every testimony of affection was shown on the occasion. Crowds of people were assembled, and the bells were rung at most places on the road; an immense number thronged in the streets of Cheltenham, the bells proclaimed the joyful intelligence, music paraded the street, and the festivity was concluded with a general illumination, and plentiful though not blameable or licentious libations to the health of George III., the Queen, and the Royal Family. On the 14th, the King in the morning began to drink the water, and continued its use for a month: he was constantly at the Spa a little after six in the morning, when he drank a glass of water, and then walked half an hour with the Queen and Princess, who likewise used the water. After the walk, the King took a second glass, and about half-past 7 the Royal party returned to Falconberg-house, the Queen and Princess in the carriage, and his Majesty on foot. About eleven, the King was constantly on horse-back, attended by Lord Courtown and Col. Digby, and followed by two of the grooms: the Queen and

Princess followed in two coaches, attended by servants: Lady Ann Bellasayse, the amiable daughter of Earl Falconberg, constantly accompanied the Princess. About two, they returned; at four they dined, and at seven appeared in the walks. Their rides were generally on the hills to the east of the town, but they frequently extended their rides to the cities, towns, and neighbouring seats. On the Sunday, the Royal Family attended Divine service at the Parish Church: Dr. Halifax, bishop of Gloucester, preached. On Saturday, August 16, they left Cheltenham, about eight in the morning; they drove very slowly through the town. The principal inhabitants, and the nobility and gentry who were visitors, were assembled on both sides of the street opposite the Plough. When the King and Queen passed by, there was a very affecting scene: the King and Queen alternately on both sides the coach taking their leave, and the assembled multitude, with silent and dutiful respect, reverently bowing to a monarch who had conducted himself towards them with the courtesy of a gentleman without losing the dignity of a King. The music of the town played 'God save the King,' in slow time, and the band of the 29th Regiment answered in responses. Thus ended the Royal visit to Cheltenham."

When King George III. and family were visiting the town, they regularly attended Divine Worship at the Parish Church. In the *Morning Post* of July 18th, 1788, is the following account:—

"Cheltenham, Sunday.

"This morning the King, Queen, and Princesses attended the Spa, and walked from Falconberg Hall to the Church. They were received at the door by the Bishop of Worcester and the Rev. Mr. Freeman, Rector of the parish. This day the choir of select singers mustered up courage, and performed two Psalms. The 84th, 'How pleasant are thy dwellings, Lord,' was a very good counterpart composition, and, *with the help of a very good bassoon*, was performed in a style superior to anything that could be expected. Their Majesties seemed to be very much pleased, as those performers had not resolution enough last Sunday to perform. The Rector had the honour of preaching the Sermon—text, Mathew xxv., ver. 29. After the Sermon the Bishop and Rector walked before their Majesties to the end of the churchyard, and then bowed and took leave. The Royal visitants

walked into the High Street, attended by a great number of persons, particularly young men and maidens from the country, and then came to Coffee House Yard, they turned up the passage and paid a visit to Lady Mary Boulby. They staid in her ladyship's apartments upwards of an hour, when they returned through the fields to dinner. In the evening the usual walk in the fields, with a vast concourse of well-dressed persons. The King was dressed as usual, plain blue, with the same brownbob, the Queen and Princesses very plain, their bonnets only commanded attention—her Majesty's and the Princess Royal's very elegantly trimmed with light green and white ribbons; an improvement upon the Turc bonnets, the Princess Augusta and Elizabeth, bonnets of straw, trimmed in the same taste, with light blue."

On the previous Sunday, the Royal family had attended the Church, and although the local choir "had not resolution enough to perform," yet by way of compensation, the sermon was preached by the celebrated Dr. Halifax, bishop of Gloucester.

Madame D'Arblay, one of the maids of honour to her Majesty, and who accompanied the suite, published a 'Diary,' from which we here give extracts:—

She says "that the crowd gathered together upon the road, waiting for the King and Queen to pass, was immense, and almost unbroken from Oxford to Cheltenham. Every town and village within twenty miles seemed to have been deserted; to supply all the pathways with groups of anxious spectators. Yet, though so numerous, so quiet were they, and so new to the practices of a hackneyed mob, that their curiosity never induced them to venture within some yards of the Royal carriage, and their satisfaction never broke forth into tumult and acclamation. Their Majesties travelled wholly without guard or state.

"When we arrived at Cheltenham, which is almost all one street, extremely long, clean, and well-paved, we had to turn out of the public way about a quarter of a mile, to proceed to Fauconberg Hall, which my Lord Fauconberg has lent for the King's use, during his stay at this place.

"It is, indeed, situated in a most sweet spot, surrounded with lofty hills beautifully variegated, and bounded, for the

principal object, with the hills of Malvern, which, here barren and there cultivated—here all chalk and there all verdure—reminded me of Box-hill, and gave me an immediate sensation of reflected as well as of visual pleasure, from giving to my new habitation some resemblance to Norbury Park.

“When we had mounted the gradual ascent on which the house stands, the crowd all round it was as one head! We stopped within twenty yards of the door, uncertain how to proceed. All the Royals were at the windows; and to pass this multitude—to wade through it, rather—was a most disagreeable operation. However we had no choice, we therefore got out, and, leaving the wardrobe women to find their way to the back door, Miss Planta and I glided on to the front one, where we saw the two gentlemen, and where, as soon as we got up the steps, we encountered the King. He inquired most graciously concerning our journey; and Lady Weymouth came down stairs to summon me to the Queen, who was in excellent spirits, and said she would show me her room. ‘*This*, ma’am!’ cried I, as I entered it—‘is *this* little room for your Majesty?’ ‘O, stay,’ cried she, laughing, ‘stay till you see your own before you call it little!’

“Soon after, she sent me up stairs for that purpose; and then, to be sure, I began to think less diminutively of that I had just quitted. Mine, with one window, had just space to crowd in a bed, a chest of drawers, and three small chairs. The prospect, however, from the window is extremely pretty, and all is new and clean. A little parlour, which had formerly belonged to Lord Fauconberg’s housekeeper, is now called mine, and here Miss Planta and myself are to dine. But for tea we formed a new plan; as Mr. Fairly had himself told me he understood there would be no tea-table at Cheltenham, I determined to stand upon no ceremony with Colonel Gwynn, but fairly and at once take and appropriate my afternoons to my own inclinations. To prevent, therefore, any surprise or altercation, we settled to have our tea up-stairs. But then a difficulty arose as to where. We had each equally small bed rooms, and no dressing room, but at length we fixed on the passage, near a window looking over Malvern Hills and much beautiful country. But let me give you now an account of the house and accommodations. On the ground floor there is one

large and very pleasant room, which is made the dining parlour. The King and Royal Family also breakfast in it, by themselves, except the Lady-in-waiting, Lady Weymouth. They sup there also, in the same manner. The gentlemen only dine with them, I find. They are to breakfast with us, to drink tea where they will, and to sup—where they can; and I rather fancy, from what I have yet seen, it will be commonly with good Duke Humphrey. A small but very neat dressing room for his Majesty is on the other side the hall, and my little parlour is the third and only other room on the ground floor; so you will not think our Monarch, his consort and offspring, take up too much of the land called their own.

“Over this eating parlour, on the first floor, is the Queen’s drawing room, in which she is obliged to dress and to undress, for she has no toilette apartment! Who, after that, can repine at any inconvenience here for the household? Here after breakfast she sits with her daughters and her lady, and Lady Courtown, who, with her lord, is lodged in the town of Cheltenham. And here they drink tea, and live till supper time. Over the King’s dressing room is his bed room, and over my store room is the bed room of the Princess Royal; and here ends the first floor. The second is divided and sub-divided into bed rooms, which are thus occupied. Princess Augusta and Princess Elizabeth sleep in two beds in the largest room. Lady Weymouth occupies that next largest in size, Miss Planta and myself have two little rooms built over the King’s bed room; and Mrs. Sandys and Miss Macentomb, and Lady Weymouth’s maid, have the rest. This is the whole house! Not a man but the King sleeps in it!

“A house is taken in the town for Mr. Fairly and Colonel Gwynn, and there lodge several of the servants, and among them Columb. The pages sleep in out-houses. Even the housemaids lodge in the town, a quarter of a mile or more from the house!

“Lord Courtown, as comptroller of the household, acts here for the King, in distributing his royal bounty to the wells, rooms, library—the identical library from which I now write, and which assumed its appellation of Royal from this very circumstance—and elsewhere. He has sent around very magnificently.





VIEW FROM BAY'S HILL, CHELTENHAM.

"We are surrounded by pleasant meadows, in which I mean to walk a great deal. They are so quiet and so safe, I can go quite alone; and when I have not a first-rate companion, my second best is—none at all!

"Monday, July 14th.—This morning I was again up at five o'clock, Miss Planta having asked me to accompany her to the wells. The Queen herself went this morning, at six o'clock, with his Majesty. It is distant about a quarter of a mile from Lord Fauconberg's.

"Cheltenham possesses a charm for those resident in it, or merely sojourning for a time, more especially as by reason of the Royal visit, streets, buildings, and thoroughfares have acquired their present names, which perpetually recall it to the mind. I have elsewhere alluded to the 'wooden house;' here we have the full particulars relating to it. Friday, August 1st.—This was a very busy day; the Duke of York was expected, and his fond father had caused a portable wooden house to be moved from the further end of Cheltenham town up to join to Fauconberg Hall. The task has employed twenty or thirty men almost ever since our arrival, and so laborious, slow, difficult, and all but impracticable had it proved, that it was barely accomplished before it was wanted. There was no room, however, in the King's actual dwelling, and he could not endure not to accommodate his son immediately next himself.

"His joy upon his arrival was such joy as I have only seen when he arrived first from Germany; I do not mean it was equally violent, or alas! equally unmixed, but yet it was next and nearest to that which had been most perfect. Mr. Bunbury attended his Royal Highness. We had all dispersed from breakfast, but the King came in, and desired me to make him some. Mr. Fairly had brought him to my little parlour, and having called Columb, and assisted in arranging a new breakfast, he left us, glad, I suppose, of a morning to himself."

This "Diary," while it gives the fullest account we have of the Royal visit, at the same time illustrates the smallness of the town, and how little it was then adapted to receive visitors. Queen Charlotte's maid of honour has also published in her "Diary" these incidents. We give an extract which exhibits the simple mode of conversation adopted by royalty:—



"The King came into the room and said, 'So, no Mr. Fairly again?'"

"'No, sir; he's very bad this morning.'"

"'What's the matter?—His face?'"

"'No, sir, he has got the gout. These waters, he thinks, have brought it on.'"

"'What in his foot?'"

"'Yes, sir; he is quite lame; his foot is swelled prodigiously.'"

"'So he's quite knocked up! Can't he come out?'"

"'No, sir; he's obliged to order a gouty shoe and stay at home and nurse.'"

"The King declared the Cheltenham waters were admirable friends to the constitution, by bringing disorders out of the habit. Mr. Fairly, he said, had not been well for some time, and a smart fit of the gout might set him all to rights again.

"Alas, thought I, a smart fit of the gout in a lonely lodging at a water-drinking place!"

"The King and Queen walked in the same state as on the terrace at Windsor, followed by the three Princesses and their attendants. Everybody stopped and stood up as they passed, or as they stopped themselves to speak to any of the company."

Madame D'Arblay, the authoress of the "Diary," was a Miss Burney, the daughter of Dr. Burney, the author of one of the early memoirs of the great Handel. Fauconberg House, where the Royal family resided, was located on Bays Hill, and was built by Mr. Skillicorne in 1781. From it was a fine commanding view of the entire country. At that time the whole of the present Bays Hill Estate was pasture land, intersected with shady groves, and ornamented with fine and wide-spreading trees. The Royal mansion was therefore surrounded with a natural park, and must have been a delightful change from a metropolitan Palace. This mansion has only recently been pulled down, and our sketch, engraved from a drawing kindly supplied by W. N. Skillicorne, Esq., represents it as it stood. We also give two other artistic illustrations, one of which shows a view of the town from the King's house at the time of the Royal residence, and another taken from the spot as it now stands studded with mansions. The furniture used by the Royal Monarch was sold by auction in 1856, by Mr. Villar,

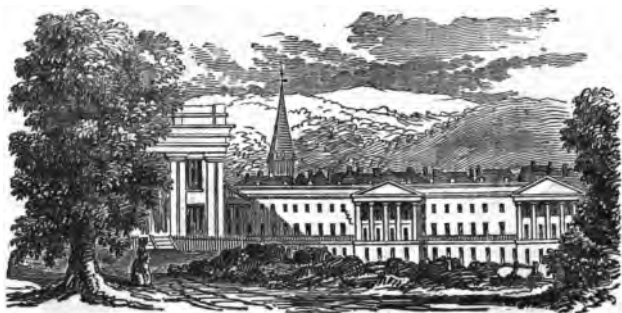
and many "relics of Royalty" were scattered among collectors. The antique bedstead on which his Majesty slept during his sojourn, passed into the hands of F. Finden, Esq., of Prestbury.



"The bedstead on which George III. slept, when visiting Cheltenham in the year 1788, was sold by Mr. James Villar, at an auction at Fielding's Victoria Hotel, Wincheomb Street, on Wednesday. The purchaser was F. Finden, Esq., of Prestbury." — *Cheltenham Journal*, July, 1856. A dressing table of curious design, and of oak, belonging to the King's "small room" mentioned in the "Diary," is possessed by the author. The glass which the Royal Monarch regularly drank from at the Old Wells is still preserved at that establishment.

The impression which the scenery of Cheltenham made upon the Royal mind is strikingly apparent from an incident which occurred some time afterwards. "In 1788, when George III. was at Weymouth, he was enjoying his evening walk on the Esplanade, when suddenly encountering a face which he recognized, he desired one of his suite to request to know if the gentleman was not from Cheltenham. The gentleman in question having advanced, was introduced to his Majesty, who seemed delighted at an opportunity of making many almost paternal enquiries with respect to the town, its prosperity and

general condition ; saying with peculiar emphasis, ‘ Ah, you have come from one of the finest counties of England, and good as Dorsetshire may be, it can bear no comparison with Cheltenham and the vale of Gloucester, *the finest part of my kingdom that I have beheld.*’ ” — *Weller.*



VIEW FROM BAYS HILL, 1854.

The following anecdotes are recorded :—“ One day he rode out to Burley, and the weather being rainy, wore his great coat. On his return, he overtook a farmer, with his drove of sheep. His Majesty rode with him for a quarter of an hour, conversing upon the value and properties of the land, and the prices of sheep and cattle. After satisfactorily answering all his Majesty’s inquiries, the farmer, grown familiar, asked the gentleman if he had seen the King, and being answered in the affirmative, he no doubt supposing that his Majesty always appeared, as in signs of alehouses, in his coronation robes, said, ‘ Our neighbours say he is a good sort of a man, but dresses very plain.’—‘ Aye,’ said the King, ‘ as plain as I do,’ and rode on.” “ His Majesty’s servants played at cricket, (the King having sent to London for bats and balls,) lest they should sicken for want of exercise.” “ The Highman Palantine performed his conjurations before the Royal family. He requested the King to cut a bit of silk out of the Queen’s gown, with which his Majesty very condescendingly complied, and the juggler in an instant replaced it.” “ Being straitened for want of room at the lodge, the King, who had taken notice of a neatly built timber house,

at the end of the town, conceived that it might be removed in a few days, and be placed upon an elevated spot at no great distance from the royal residence. Mr. Ashton, an ingenious mechanic and surveyor, undertook to do it. It was accordingly effected, though there was a bridge to pass, and an ascent of 50 feet, between July 22nd and 28th."—*Gentleman's Magazine* for 1788.

The *Morning Post* in 1788 recorded the local movements of Royalty in paragraphs such as the following:—

"Lord Fauconberg's house, occupied by their Majesties, is most delightfully situated, about a quarter of a mile from Cheltenham. Their Majesties arrived at Cheltenham at five o'clock on Saturday evening, July 12th. There were no guards, and only four footmen with the carriage, &c. Nothing pleased the inhabitants more than the unguarded manner in which his Majesty lived, conversed, and moved about among his faithful, his devoted subjects—like a father in the midst of his children."

"On Monday evening, July 21st, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales arrived here, on a short visit to their Majesties. On the 1st of August, his Royal Highness the Duke of York arrived, and occupied the Wooden House, originally erected in the town, and carried up to Bays Hill entire on the 28th of July."

#### VISITS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.

The good impression made on the minds of the junior members of the Royal family by the visit of 1788 was not forgotten in after years. From that time to the present, descendants of the noble line, when sojourning in the town, have enquired for the residence of their Royal ancestor, and sought out every incident that they could glean concerning him.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, afterwards George the Fourth, who accompanied his Royal Sire, paid Cheltenham a second visit in 1806, when Prince Regent. He testified his respect to the courtesy shown him and his Royal relatives by giving a ball, at which the leading nobility and gentry were invited. It was one of the largest and most fashionable gatherings the locality ever witnessed, and is alluded to in the *Cheltenham Chronicle*, when detailing a similar event in connection with the Duke of Wellington's visit. In 1821, the Prince, then George

the Fourth, went on a tour to Ireland. In returning, he selected the route to the metropolis that included Cheltenham, and again had an opportunity of witnessing the scenes of his youth on September 14th of the above year.

THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER paid his first visit in 1807, and continued an annual sojourn for 29 years afterwards, until the time of his decease. The length of time which the noble Duke spent at Cheltenham, as well as the frequency of his visits, tended greatly to advance the popularity of the place. In 1819, Colonel Berkeley entertained his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester and party with great magnificence at Berkeley Castle, all the principal nobility in the county receiving invitations to meet the Royal guest. After a stay of about one week the Duke proceeded to Woodchester Park, near Stroud, to pay a similar visit to Lord Ducie, who then resided on that estate.

THE DUKE OF SUSSEX arrived in the town on September 26, 1809. He joined his noble relative, the Duke of Gloucester, who was then staying here, and the two distinguished guests mingled with the amusements then in progress. They were together present at a sermon preached at the Parish Church, on behalf of the County Infirmary. The preacher was the Rev. B. Capel Hemming, and after a sermon from the text Luke x., 37—"Go thou and do likewise," the sum of £57 17s. 6d. was collected. The Duke of Sussex went on a visit to Berkeley Castle, where he remained until his return to the Metropolis.

HIS SERENE HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF ORANGE was visiting Cheltenham at the same time, and formed one of the Royal party.

QUEEN ADELAIDE arrived on July 31, 1827. Her Majesty and suite occupied apartments at a newly built hotel near the Royal Crescent. The proprietor, after her Majesty's departure, named the building "The Clarence," and placed the Royal Arms over the portico. The establishment was afterwards removed to "The Queen's," and the former residence of royalty is now used as a Magistrate's Office and local Police Station.

QUEEN VICTORIA passed through the town, *en route*, accompanied by her Royal parent, the Duchess of Kent, on August 14, 1880, in an open carriage, and received the congratulations of the inhabitants. Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and Royal Family have twice since that period passed through Cheltenham.

by rail, and although the public officials had made every preparation to pay respect to royalty, yet the previous arrangements of the Royal household would not permit the train to be stayed in its progress. The clergy, and the children of the various Charity and Sunday Schools assembled together, with an immense concourse of spectators, to welcome her Majesty and suite as they passed through the station.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE honoured the town with his presence on July 16, 1835. "His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge arrived in this town on Wednesday evening from Warwick, when he was greeted by a merry peal from the bells of St. Mary's. On Thursday, his Royal Highness paid a visit to Pittville, with which he expressed himself highly delighted, and much admired the disposal of the grounds, the lake, and pump room. In the course of the day he also visited the Old King's Wells and the Montpellier. On Friday, his Royal Highness, accompanied by Sir William Burdett and suite, paid a visit to Fauconberg House (now the Bayshill School) near the Old Wells, which was occupied by his Royal Highness's late father. His Royal Highness was conducted by Mr. Fallon, the proprietor, through every apartment, and appeared to take great interest in viewing the bed-room, study, &c., of his late Majesty George the Third. After remaining a considerable time in the study, and expressing his admiration at the rich views obtained from various parts of the building, his Royal Highness departed for Gloucester, from whence he returned in the evening and dined with Sir William Burdett. In the course of the evening, the following address, numerously signed, although got up after one o'clock on Friday, was presented to his Royal Highness, by whom it was most graciously received:—

"We, the undersigned Inhabitants of Cheltenham, most respectfully approach your Royal Highness to offer our faithful and respectful assurances of the high sense we entertain of the honour you have been graciously pleased to confer on our favoured Town, by enabling us at this your visit to embrace the hurried opportunity of assuring your Royal Highness of our sincere and heartfelt attachment to your Royal Highness and August Family."

"His Royal Highness left Cheltenham this morning at a quarter after eight, for Windsor, where he will dine with his Majesty."—*Cheltenham Free Press*, July, 1835.

"July 16.—Queen Victoria's uncle, the Duke of Cambridge, arrived. During his sojourn he visited Bays Hill House,

formerly the residence of King George III.. His Royal Highness examined the principal apartments in the house, respecting all of which he made very particular enquiries, and seemed to take great interest in whatever related to a spot which his Royal father's partiality and affection for, had rendered so celebrated. The party then returned and proceeded through the Royal Old Wells to the Montpellier, where a large concourse of our more fashionable visitors and residents awaited His Royal Highness's arrival. The Royal party next proceeded to the Montpellier gardens, and then returned to the Plough Hotel to breakfast. In course of the day, his Royal Highness visited Pittville, its pump room, pleasure grounds, and promenades, and inspected the other parts of the town and neighbourhood, the delightful situation of which, and the perfect order and general arrangement which prevailed throughout every part, called forth repeatedly from his Royal Highness the warmest eulogiums."—*Looker-On*, July 18, 1835.

Sir W. Burdett, Bart., Sir J. Reynett, and Captain Kirwan, M.C., had the honour of accompanying the Duke of Cambridge to the principal objects of interest in and near the town.

PRINCE GEORGE OF CAMBRIDGE.—On September 5th, in the same year, the town was honoured with a visit from the Prince George of Cambridge, who inspected the same spots of interest in much the same order of route as did his Royal parent, the Duke of Cambridge, in the July previous.

THE DUKE OF BRUNSWICK inspected the principal objects of interest in the town, and expressed himself pleased with the natural beauties of the locality, on September 28, 1836.

#### VISIT OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

"All hail! great Wellington! victorious chief,  
Most gladly I afforded thee relief,  
For inward plaints which haunt the human frame,  
With joy my raptur'd guests beheld thee here,  
When thou my walks didst with thy presence cheer;  
With admiration on thy person gaz'd,  
And with thy glorious deeds were highly pleas'd;  
The object which they for a season deem  
Worthy alone to be their constant theme.  
And well hast thou deserv'd that high renown,  
Which on thy deathless name confers a crown."

*Tovey's Cheltenham.*

"Sir Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington—the hero of a hundred fields, in all of which his banner has waved in triumph; who never—I invoke both hemispheres to witness—bear witness Europe, bear witness Asia—who never advanced but to cover his arms with glory; the captain who never advanced but to be victorious, the mightier captain who never retreated but to eclipse the glory of his advance. By the yet harder task of unwearied patience, indomitable to lassitude, the inexhaustible resources of transcendent skill, showing the wonders, the marvels of a moral courage never yet subdued."—Speech of Lord Brougham in *Cheltenham Examiner*, Sept. 4, 1839.

It is an interesting fact connected with local history that the "hero of a hundred fights," the greatest Captain of the age—he whose career was one unclouded day, filled with renowned actions, repaired from the "din of war" to seek renewed strength and energy by drinking the waters and breathing the salubrious air of the "Queen of Watering Places." After the memorable Battle of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington and family repaired to France, but even the gaieties of Paris had not such attractions as Cheltenham, in the mind of the Duke, and consequently he decided upon departing from the French metropolis and partaking of those mineral waters which have ever been proverbial for their health-restoring properties. As soon as it became known that the great warrior was expected, a public meeting was convened of the inhabitants, at which the late Earl Fitzhardinge presided. It was there decided that a demonstration of popular feeling should be made, {and a committee was appointed, and ample funds raised for the purpose. The Duke of Wellington arrived in Cheltenham on July 7, 1816. Three triumphal arches were erected, one on a large scale for the purpose of carriages, and a smaller one on either side for foot passengers. These were located at the High Street entrance to Cambray, and extended from the premises now occupied by Mr. Notcutt, chemist, to those on the opposite side occupied by Mr. White, grocer. These arches were lofty, and well-executed works of art. They were erected of wood, painted to imitate stone, and portraits of the Duke, and names of the principal battles in which he had been engaged, were conspicuously represented. The arches, together with the principal houses of the town, were illuminated for several successive



evenings. On the day after the Duke's arrival, the address decided upon at the public meeting was presented. The deputation consisted of the late Earl Fitzhardinge, Lord Clarina; Sir W. Cunningham, Sir Arthur Brooke Faulkner, General Merrick, and other residents. The noble Earl, then Colonel Berkeley, was selected to read to his Grace the following address:—"My lord,—We the inhabitants and visitors of Cheltenham, animated with the liveliest sentiments of joy at your Grace's arrival amongst us, hail your return to England, after so many glorious and unparalleled triumphs over her enemies, with the most heart-felt congratulations. Though we have been accustomed to dwell with delight on the brilliant victories of our troops led on by your Grace's consummate skill and valour, yet your actual presence in this place, has with a peculiar force revived our admiration for the illustrious author of these achievements. It is our most fervent prayer, that the object which has procured us the honour of your Grace's visit, may speedily be crowned with the happiest results to yourself and to the country." To the address the Duke returned a most gracious reply.

On July 9, the Duke and Duchess attended the theatre, which was crowded to excess. On the following Monday, they formally opened the Assembly Rooms, which cost nearly £60,000, and were there welcomed by one of the most fashionable crowds ever assembled beneath its roof, numbering upwards of fourteen hundred of the aristocracy. On Thursday the Duke left for London, having received an invitation to dine with the Prince Regent on the following day, and did not return again to Cheltenham until the middle of the ensuing week, when he resumed his course of the waters, and rode out round the surrounding country every day, always accompanied by Lord Fitzroy Somerset, or other officers of his suite. During his stay he received many invitations from the neighbouring gentry. He was entertained at Berkeley Castle by Colonel Berkeley, and a similar compliment was paid him by the Mayor and Corporation of Gloucester, who, on Tuesday, July 30th, gave a splendid banquet in his honour, the Duke of Beaufort, the Earl of Liverpool, and other distinguished personages being also present at the dinner. On Wednesday, the 31st of July, the Duke left Cheltenham on his return for the metropolis, proceeding in the

first instance, to the Earl of Bathurst's seat, near Cirencester, there to spend a few days; and thence to the Marquis of Bath's. The Duchess of Wellington, with the children, took their departure next day for London. On leaving Cheltenham, its illustrious visitor made donations to the National School of £30, and to the Dispensary and School of Industry each £10; the Duchess also giving £10 to the first, and £5 to each of the latter.

The house in which the Duke and family resided during their visit was the original Cambray House; but afterwards called Wellington Mansion. It was the property and residence of Colonel Riddell, and was at the time, one of the best places that could have been secured. It was surrounded with pleasure-grounds tastefully laid out, which extended from the present Wellington Street along the Chelt to the Bath Road. This once celebrated establishment is now no more; the site being partially occupied by buildings. Colonel Riddell, the owner, being desirous of retaining some remembrance of the Duke having occupied the premises, his Grace, at his suggestion, consented to plant an oak in the pleasure grounds fronting the house, which was accordingly done with great ceremony, on Monday, the 22nd of July, being the anniversary of the battle of Salamanca,—the Duke's two sons; the then youthful Marquis of Douro and Lord C. Wellesley, with Lord Hill, Lord Lynedoch, and other distinguished characters, taking part in the proceedings. But, it was considered; that some more obvious memorial should also be made. Consequently, in the following year, an obelisk in the Egyptian style was erected by the side of the youthful oak planted by the Duke. This obelisk was surrounded by an iron palisading. On the pillar, resting upon a massive pedestal, were sculptured emblematical representations of the great hero's victories. It continued standing for twenty-seven years; when it was sold by auction in 1843, and purchased for building purposes. In a sunk pannel, beneath a bass-relief bust of the Duke, was the following inscription:—"Almighty and most merciful God; vouchsafe to accept our humble endeavours in offering a tribute of praise to Thee, the Giver of Victory; that Thou wast pleased to select and to protect his Grace the Duke of Wellington and his brave associates in arms:—to unite in one cause; nations with whom we had been at

enmity, and aided by their assistance, to subdue the common foe; who had for many years disturbed and overthrown kingdoms. Accept our most fervent prayers and thanksgiving, that this town should have been selected, from its invigorating springs, to renovate the health of our illustrious Hero, who, with his amiable consort and noble Children, planted the Oak, to commemorate which this Obelisk is erected. This Tree, to all appearance dead, was, by Thy Almighty power, incomprehensible to the mind of man, restored, and is now flourishing in full vigour. Let it remind us that we also must die—at the same time let us hope, that through Thy goodness and the mediation of our blessed Saviour, we may rise to life immortal.—Amen.”

The Duke of Wellington again visited Cheltenham in 1828. His Grace arrived on August 15th, and departed on August 31st, residing at the Priory, the property of Captain Marshall, the then M.C., and an officer who had served under the Duke in the Peninsula. The Duke regularly drank the waters every morning at the Old Wells, and afterwards repaired to the Montpellier Promenades and mingled with the fashionable throng. On Thursday, August 21st, the Duke patronized a Promenade Ball at the Montpellier Rotunda: on the following Monday a Dress Ball at the Assembly Rooms, and on Tuesday the Theatre. At the period of the noble Duke's second visit, the following members of the aristocracy were in the town:—Prince Schwartzburg, the Princess Esterhazy, Prince Hazelburg, Prince Puckler Muskau, the Dukes of Buckingham, Beaufort, and Manchester, the Earls of Powis, Digby, Bathurst, Somers, Beauchamp, and other lords, ladies, and branches of our nobility. Accompanied by Lord Fitzroy Somerset, Sir F. Harvey, his private Secretary, and the other members of his suite, the Duke of Wellington went every morning, at half-past seven, to the Old Wells, to drink the waters, the distinguished party, on the occasion, being always accompanied and followed by great crowds of people, eager to obtain a sight of the hero of Waterloo. His Grace, when visiting the Spa, subscribed both to the support of the establishment, and also towards the expenses of the band of music which daily performed. He entered his donations under date in the subscription books open

in the rooms ; and as a memento of the great Hero, we here transcribe his autograph.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Duke of Wellington". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with long, sweeping strokes characteristic of the Duke's signature.

During the period the town was honoured with this visit the *elite* of the English nobility came here to meet the hero of Waterloo. We give by way of illustrating the local feeling then prevalent, the annexed extracts from the only paper then published in the town—the *Cheltenham Chronicle*—which will form a guide of the movements of the great hero :—

“ His Grace, accompanied by Lord Fitzroy Somerset (the late Lord Raglan) arrived at the mansion of Colonel Riddle, in Cambray, on Sunday afternoon, at 5 o'clock. The house was previously occupied by the Duchess of Wellington and family, who had arrived two days before to make the necessary arrangements for the Duke's visit. On the day of his arrival the lawn in front of the mansion was thronged by an assemblage of persons of the highest rank, anxious to see and greet the noble hero, who had fought so well his country's battles—the statesman whose consummate skill had reconciled the jarring interests of rival states—the chastiser of the once formidable Bonaparte, the emancipator of the Continent, and the restorer of the peace of Europe. Colonel Riddle had the honour of conducting the Duchess of Wellington to church on Sunday morning, and her grace was the ‘ observed of all observers.’ ”—July 11, 1816.

“ Since the ball at Cheltenham a few years since, which the Prince of Wales honoured with his presence, never was seen such a constellation of beauty and rank and fashion as at the Assembly Rooms on Wednesday evening, which the Duke and Duchess of Wellington had graciously promised to attend. The company amounted to six hundred. The duchess was in the rooms in the early part of the evening. Soon after ten o'clock the Duke arrived, amidst the acclamations of persons assembled in the street, the band playing, ‘ See, the conquering

hero comes.' The passages and staircase of the rooms were brilliantly illuminated, and a beautiful transparency of Britannia held a medallion with a striking likeness of the illustrious hero. His Grace was dressed in mourning, with the garter and star of the Garter, and round his cravat was a superb collar of scarlet enamel set in gold and diamonds, being the collar of some foreign order of knighthood."—July 18, 1816.

"The second ball under the auspices of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, was honoured beyond all former precedent. As early as eight o'clock, the bustle of fashion began, and before eleven the truly superb Assembly Rooms contained upwards of 1400 personages of distinction."—Aug. 4, 1816.

The noble Duke's second visit is also recorded in the same local paper for 1828 :—"The enthusiasm with which the Duke was everywhere welcomed on this occasion of his second visit, was almost equal to that which his presence inspired in 1816, when he visited the place after the pacification of Europe, when all his victor laurels were at their greenest. The Duke, in addition to all his military influence and renown, was now also Prime Minister of England, and was, consequently, not quite so easy of access as on the occasion of his former visit; the cares of State and Government now resting upon him necessarily absorbing a great deal of his time, and occupying his constant thought and attention. During his stay in Cheltenham, which, upon this occasion, extended from August 15 to August 31, the Duke, as on his former visit, regularly drank the waters at the Royal Old Wells, proceeding there every morning shortly after half-past seven, and generally promenading up and down the elm tree avenue for about twenty minutes. After his second glass, he usually mingled with the company at the adjoining Montpellier—then in the height of its fashionable reputation—conversing with the nobility and gentry patronising this Spa, when, from 8 to 10 o'clock every morning, were accustomed to throng its Promenade, listening to the music of the excellent military band then attached to the establishment, and the discontinuance of which has contributed materially to alter the character of the Cheltenham seasons. About half-past eight the Duke left on his return home; on his exit, sometimes turning into the shop of Mr. Abraham, the optician, (then adjoining the Pump Room),

to look at the barometer, and to speculate with the old gentleman on the probable state of the weather; at others, looking in at Mawe's Museum, a building then occupying the site of the present Montpellier Exchange, and an object, in those days, of considerable attraction to the visitors of Cheltenham. Returning to the Priory by nine, his Grace then breakfasted; and this with him, plain and simple—meal disposed of, he immediately proceeded to examine the mass of letters and despatches which awaited his attention, and to reply to such of them as required answers. Among them were always a great many from old soldiers and officers' widows, and other applicants and petitioners soliciting the Duke's interest or assistance, to all of which some courteous answer was invariably returned. Attention to this mass of correspondence regularly occupied from two to four hours of the morning, according to the character of the documents which required his attention; and replies to which were never allowed to accumulate or get into arrear. These duties performed, the Duke then usually mounted his horse, and rode out for an hour or two, generally unattended, except by his servant, but occasionally accompanied by friends, who sometimes started with him from his own door, at others joined him on his ride. At four o'clock every day his Grace visited the Montpellier Baths, and there took a warm bath, in which he always remained an hour, during which time he uniformly read the newspapers, never bringing less than eight or ten with him, and having a frame set across the bath for the purpose of keeping the paper open while he glanced over its contents. From the Baths the Duke returned home to dinner, and seldom went out after, unless when invited by particular friends, or for the purpose of patronizing some of the public amusements, which, however, he was not very fond of doing. Among the entertainments thus honoured, on one occasion was the Promenade Ball, at the Montpellier Rotunda, at that time, and for several years after, the most fashionable of all the amusements of Cheltenham. The announcement of the Duke's intention to be present brought, of course, a great crowd to the ball of Thursday, August 21, upwards of seven hundred persons attending. His Grace arrived about half-past nine, and remained for one hour—entering into familiar conversation with Sir Thomas Lethbridge and several general officers present on the

occasion. On the Tuesday following, the Duke patronized the Dress Ball at the Assembly Rooms, returning for this purpose from Badminton, where he had gone the previous day, on a visit to the Duke of Beaufort. On the evening following, he patronized the Theatre; Madame Vestris, who had just commenced her engagement for the season, being honoured with 'a bespeak' for the *Rencontre* and the farce of *The £100 Note*."

Wellington Mansion, where the great hero resided, having been pulled down, its site was in 1862, converted into a nursery garden and occupied by Mr. Pipe.

The repeated visits of the great hero had rendered his person familiar both to residents and visitors. When the news came of his decease every outward token of respect to his memory was shown. An excellent funeral sermon was preached at the Parish Church by the Incumbent, which was published and had a wide circulation. As a testimony of respect to departed worth, a subscription was set on foot, and a special and superb edition of the sermon was printed at the office of the *Cheltenham Examiner*, and presented to her Majesty, through the Hon. Col. Phipps, who acknowledged the same in the following most gratifying reply:—

"Buckingham Palace, Feb. 17, 1853.

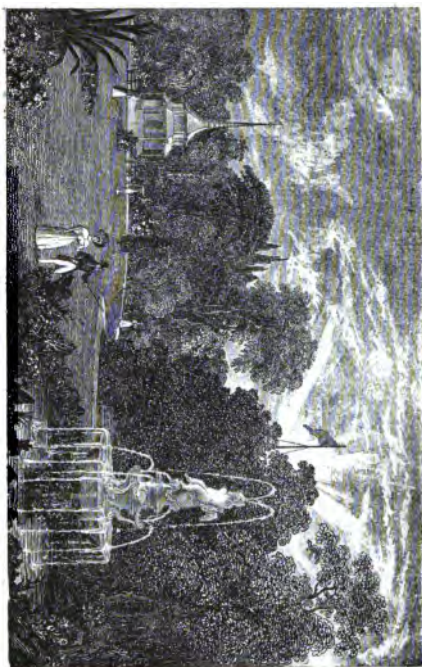
"Sir,—I had the honour to present to her Majesty the Queen, the copy of the sermon preached by the Rev. F. Close, on the funeral of the late Duke of Wellington. Her Majesty has been pleased very graciously to accept this sermon, and I am commanded to request you to convey to the subscribers—by the means of whose subscriptions this copy was reprinted and bound for her Majesty—the Queen's high appreciation of the good feeling of those who thus testified their sympathy in the mournful regrets which her Majesty, in common with her people, feels for the irreparable loss which the nation has sustained.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient humble servant,

"C. B. PHIPPS."

"G. Norman, Esq."



**MONTPELLIER GARDENS, CHELTENHAM.**





## VISITS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF FRANCE.

The exiled family of the unfortunate Louis XVI. arrived on May 25th, 1811. They consisted of the daughter and son-in-law of the ill-fated monarch—the Duke and Duchess of Angauleme. They resided at Sheldon's, afterwards called the "York," in the High Street. Cheltenham presented such attractions to them, that in two years afterwards they again paid another visit; and from that time to the present, some of the branches of these exiles appear on our "arrival list." "Among the foreign noblesse which at present honour this town, are La Duchesse D'Angauleme, and La Comte D'Artois. Louis XVII. is expected on Monday. The former at present resides in Cambray Lodge. La Duchesse D'Angauleme, only daughter of Louis XVI., married the only son of his brother Count D'Artois. The son of the Count D'Artois is the present Duke D'Angauleme, and the sole surviving child of the ill-fated monarch. This interesting couple were regarded as the union which should and might perpetuate the claimants to the throne of their aucestors. They were driven from Courland, their last continental retreat, by the policy of the present Alexander, when he had formed his first alliance with Bonaparte. In England they were never received at court by the king, but they have experienced the most delicate and marked hospitality from the Grenville family, and lately from the Prince Regent." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, July 22, 1813).

LOUIS XVIII.—"Louis XVIII. arrived in this town on Monday, and joined the Duchesse at her residence in Cambray" (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, Aug. 5, 1813.) During their stay, they visited Boddington Manor House, and paid repeated visits to the Salts Manufactory.

EX-QUEEN OF WURTEMBERG.—"Among our arrivals this week we have to announce that of the Ex-Queen of Wurtemberg, wife of Jerome Bonaparte, a lady rendered peculiarly interesting by her beauty and misfortunes, and amiable manner." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, Aug. 10, 1815).

LOUIS PHILIPPE, KING OF THE FRENCH, (when Duke of Orleans), and family arrived on July 12, 1816, and after drinking the waters for nearly three months, were sufficiently restored to health to depart in the September following.

The many visits paid to the town by different members of the

royal family of France, at once proves the estimation in which the place is held by foreign nations. An interesting incident has lately been brought to light in reference to the royal visitor last recorded :

"His Royal Highness the Duc D'Aumale, who presided at the 72nd anniversary of the Royal Literary Fund Dinner, held at the Freemason's Tavern, related the following anecdote in reference to English literature :—'I cannot pretend to be thoroughly acquainted with your literature, but if I know something of it, I owe it to two circumstances. The first is, that I was educated by a father who had been an exile, as I am now, who had found on your shores the same hospitable shelter, and who both knew and loved your country, your language, the great works of your literature, as well, I suppose, as any foreigner ever did or can. I remember that in the earliest days of my life, when he was himself free from all political responsibility, in the happy and quiet evenings of Neuilly, he used often, after having shown to his children the engraved portraits of celebrated men and told their deeds, or plates which commemorated the military achievements of our countrymen, to take down from the shelves of the library some huge folio volume of *Boydell's Illustrated Shakespeare*, a copy which he had bought himself at the Auction-room at Cheltenham, and give us an outline of the finest scenes of your great dramatist, reciting occasionally some of the beautiful passages which had remained engraved in his wonderful memory. That was my first impression of English literature, and one which will never be effaced from my mind ; for it is connected with one of my earliest recollections of the best of fathers.'" (*Times*, May, 1861).

It was in 1816, as will be seen, that Louis Philippe was on a visit to the town, when he purchased the works of the immortal bard. He had a residence at Twickenham, near London, from whence he often made excursions with his family for the joint purpose of improving their health and making them acquainted with England. When in Cheltenham he was Duke of Orleans, and free from the troubles of the State, and devoted his time to the education of his family. He had traversed a portion of the globe previously, an exile and in poverty. In fourteen years after his visit to this town, he was unanimously elected King of the vast nation of the French.

THE DUKE DE NEMOURS and suite paid a visit on Sept. 10, 1835. His Royal Highness, the son of Louis Philippe, King of the French, inspected the principal objects of interest in the neighbourhood. In three years afterwards, the Duke's Royal Mother, the late Queen of France, and daughter of King Ferdinand of Naples, and her suite, paid a visit to this town, where she had been a sojourner thirty-two years previously, with her then infantine family.

THE EX-QUEEN OF THE FRENCH arrived on Sept. 7, 1858. "The Ex-Royal Family of France, with a brilliant suite, paid a visit to Cheltenham on Thursday last. The royal party consisted of the late Queen Marie Amelie, the Comte de Paris, the Duc de Chartres, Prince Philippe of Wurtemberg, the Prince and Princess de Joinville, the Princess Blanche, the Princess François, and the Prince Ponthiew. The suite comprised the Comte and Comtesse de Chabannes, the Marquis Blanvoir, Baron Guttenberg, Madlle. Müsen, Madlle. St. Aubin, M. le Abbé Crabat, M. Guerard, and M. Allaire. During the morning they visited the Royal Old Wells, and tasted the waters, and afterwards proceeded to inspect Lord Northwick's Picture Gallery at Thirlestaine House" (*Chelt. Journal*, Sept. 9, 1858.)

SHENSTONE the eminent Poet, paid his first visit on Feb. 18, 1734, and his second in 1762. From the following letter written by him during his stay, it will be seen that a curious custom prevailed in Cheltenham at that time—namely, the rewarding of the curate of the parish annually with a new hat, in acknowledgment of the best sermon preached on a particular occasion at the Parish Church. This curious epistle is published in "Hull's Select Letters," and is as follows :

"Cheltenham, 1762.

"To Mrs. A——. I am but just arrived at home, though I left Cheltenham the day after you. I stayed indeed to hear Mr. B—— preach a morning sermon, for which I find Mrs. C—— has allotted him the hat preferable to Mr. C——. Perhaps you do not remember, nor did I hear until very lately, that there is a hat given annually at Cheltenham for the use of the best preacher, of which the disposal is assigned to Mrs. C——, to her and to her heirs for ever. I remember I used to be a little misdeemful that all who preached there had some such premium in their eye. The hat, it is true, is not quite as valuable as a Cardinal's, but while it is made a retribution for excellence, in so, (if properly considered), it is an object for a preacher in any degree. I am sorry, at the same time, to say that as a common hat, merely for its uses, it would be an object to too many country curates, whose situations and slender incomes too often excite our blushes as well as our compassion.

"SHENSTONE."

DR. JOHNSON, so intimately connected with the spread of the English language by the means of his "Dictionary," was a visitor. According to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, this was in 1749, and "The Rambler," published in following years, makes allusion to some of the beautiful scenery of the locality. Under date of Feb. 19, 1751, there is a comparison drawn

between the fashionable parties of Cheltenham, Scarborough, and other places, which would lead to the inference that he must several times have been a sojourner.

HANDEL, whose divine *Messiah* has immortalized him to all future generations, sought the invigorating air and medicinal waters of Cheltenham to strengthen his frame after intellectual application. According to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, it was in 1744, after the completion of this most magnificent composition, that the great man was a visitor. In an English review of Schoeler's Life, it is said that the *Messiah* was produced in Dublin in 1742, and that its author returned to London and reaped so great a pecuniary reward, that he was enabled to make several provincial tours, in which this town was included. Handel appears identified with Cheltenham in various ways. Here it was that Mr. Watson, the Manager of the Theatre, resided, who in the beginning of the present century revived the performance of the *Messiah* in the Midland and Western Counties. For this purpose he engaged the celebrated Madame Catalani to sing. The *Cheltenham Chronicle* in 1809 announced—"that Mr. Watson gives Madame Catalani one thousand guineas for six night's performance at Birmingham." The same local paper weekly announces the "Proposal for publishing by subscription a splendid edition of the favourite works of Handel, with a separate accompaniment arranged for the pianoforte, by Dr. John Clarke, of Cambridge. Apply to Dr. Clarke, or H. Ruff, Cheltenham Library." The same paper in 1811 also advertises the performance of Handel's *Messiah* at the Cheltenham Parish Church by 100 performers, and among the vocalists is Madame Catalani. The charge of admission was ten shillings and sixpence. Another local incident is the fact that one of Handel's biographers—John Bishop—is both a native and resident. Mr. Bishop's edition of Handel's *Messiah* has done much to make that greatest of musical productions popular.

THE COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON, who did so much to revive the religious world during the past century, was a frequent visitor to the town. In her memoir by the Rev. H. New, published in 1858, it is said: "From a letter of the Duchess of Somerset, dated July 9th, 1751, it appears that her ladyship had removed to Cheltenham, and was in very good health.

Gloucester and Cheltenham had for many years enjoyed the labours of her ladyship's chaplain and ministers. Messrs. Venn, Madan, Talbot and others, had preached in the churches, and Lord Dartmouth had thrown open his house at Cheltenham for divine service."

LORD BYRON was several times a visitor, as will be seen on reference to our chapter on the celebrated authors connected with the town. The great poet first arrived in September 1812. Sir Isaac Heard, garter king-at-arms, then a resident, was a favourite of his lordship. During his sojourn, Sir Isaac accompanied Lord Byron on an antiquarian tour, through the Midland Counties. Another associate of the great bard was Col. Berkeley, afterwards the Earl Fitzhardinge, with whom he co-operated in obtaining all the leading actors to perform at the Cheltenham Theatre. Lord Byron, during his patronage of the local drama, was the guest of Col. Berkeley, and had the pleasure during his stay in the town, of witnessing the performances of Mrs. Siddons, Kemble, Mr. and Mrs. Liston, Grimaldi, and Col. Berkeley. Lord Byron's daughter, his favourite "Ada," the late Countess Lovelace, was also a frequent visitor. His relative, Mrs. Admiral Byron, was a resident in the town until her decease in 1861, and was the mother of the Rev. J. Byron, who has held the incumbency of the adjacent village of Elmstone Hardwick ever since 1833.

SIR WALTER SCOTT sought relief from his intense application to the Waverley productions, by a visit on Nov. 22, 1826. He took a course of the mineral waters, and testified the help which they afforded towards his restoration to health.

THE RIGHT HON. SPENCER PERCEVAL, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was assassinated by Bellingham in the lobby of the House of Commons, was an occasional resident. In 1812, after the dreadful catastrophe, Mrs. Perceval and her widowed family repaired to the town, and occupied a cottage in Constitution Place—the site of the present Promenade Terrace.

THE REV. W. JAY of Bath, was some time a resident, besides being an occasional visitor. "On the death of my daughter Statira, I went to Cheltenham, in order by a change of scene to deliver my mind from that severe bereavement. I became the guest of a lady of that town who was a member of the Established Church. She informed me, with deep sorrow,

that they had a minister at their church, who, as they feared, did not preach the gospel; and she desired me to go and hear him, in order to judge for myself. I went, and on leaving the church was asked whether that was preaching the gospel? "Why really, my dear madam, that is a very awkward question for me to answer, for it was my own sermon." (Recollections of W. Jay, by his Son.)

**THE HERO OF ALGIERS.**—Lord Viscount Exmouth, his lady and daughter, arrived on Oct. 18, 1816, under orders of their medical attendants to drink the waters. A procession of the inhabitants met the Hero, and the town was illuminated on the occasion. Dr. Coley, a resident physician, who attended him, served under the noble chief whilst in India.

**THE GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS**, accompanied by Baron Nicolay, Lieut. Koutousoff, Mons de Savorassoff, Mons de Glintse, Dr. Crichton, took up their residence at the Plough, on Jan. 16, 1817.

**THE GRAND DUKE MICHAEL** and Suite paid their visit on Sept. 10, 1818. His Royal Highness took an interest in the National School, and School of Industry. He was surprised at the manufactory of the Cheltenham Salts.

**THE PERSIAN AMBASSADOR** paid a visit on Oct. 14, 1819. He gave a brilliant party at the Assembly Rooms.

**CHARLES JAMES FOX**, the renowned orator and distinguished statesman, was an annual visitor, and resided at Vernon House. He was the associate of our townsman Dr. Jenner, as will be seen on reference to the memoir of that eminent man in another part of this work.

**THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF DENMARK** arrived on July 10, 1822.

**THE GRAND DUCHESS HELENA OF RUSSIA** and Suite paid a visit on Aug. 25, 1831.

**THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY** and family arrived in May, 1809.

**THE DUKE OF BRUNSWICK**, Sept. 28, 1836.

**SIR JOHN ROSS**, the celebrated Arctic navigator, Dec. 24, 1836, and again on Aug. 6, 1856. Sir John Ross, K.C.B., was the guest of Capt. St. Clair, of Staverton Court, during the visit of the British Association; but the health of the gallant veteran was in such a weak state, being under the medical

treatment of Dr. Smith of this town, that he was unable to attend more than a few of the meetings. This gallant Arctic voyager entered the navy as far back as 1786, and during the late war was constantly actively engaged. His most important services were rendered in the Arctic regions, where in 1818 he proceeded, along with Sir W. E. Parry. He explored Baffin's Bay for a north-west passage. He was from 1829 to 1833, employed on a fresh expedition to the Arctic regions. He received the honour of knighthood and companionship of the Bath in 1834. During the war, Sir John Ross was thirteen times wounded. To Captain St. Clair, J.P., of this town and Staverton, his messmate and most intimate friend, he presented, a short time before his death, two scenes of his early exploits;—the first, a view, painted by himself, of a frigate action; and the second, a view of the capture and destruction of a three-decker in the Straits of Gibraltar. Sir John Ross, notwithstanding the active life which he led, was the author of many valuable works. Among the number was the life of one whose family have long been connected with the town,—“Memoirs of and Correspondence of Admiral Lord de Saumarez.” Sir John Ross was severely wounded at Ageseras, when serving under the late Lord de Saumarez.

SIR E. BULWER LYTTON, M.P., paid his first visit July 18, 1840. He has since then been a frequent sojourner, and is associated with our local *literati*.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, and his mother, the Duchess of Devonshire, were frequent visitors, and their names are well-known for many private charities which they supported. The noble Duke, so celebrated for his patronage of the fine arts,—as his “Palace of the Peak” at Chatsworth, under the management of Sir Joseph Paxton, so clearly shows,—paid his last visit on May 20, 1840. The Duke and suite occupied apartments at the Queen's Hotel, and the many pensioners to his bounty were daily relieved during his stay.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS ST. ALBANS will long live in the remembrance of the residents of Cheltenham for their many benefactions daily given to the local poor. The Duchess was associated in early life with the town, and her mother lies interred in the Parish Churchyard, where a monument is erected to her memory. The rich and benevolent heiress was an annual



visitor; and the noble Duke, in order to promote the fashionable amusements of the place, revived the ancient practice of Hawking—his Grace being the High Falconer of England. The sport was a source of attraction both to visitors and residents.

**SIR HARRY SMITH.**—June 7, 1847.—The “Hero of Allival” was on the following day presented with an address from the inhabitants. He received the deputation at his place of sojourn, the Belle Vue Hotel, and acknowledged the compliment paid him in eulogistic terms, praising the natural attractions of the Queen of Watering Places.

**SIR CHARLES NAPIER** was a frequent visitor to the town. On the occasion of his last visit he was honoured with a public dinner at the Queen’s Hotel. The name of “Ghurnee,” the seat of the gallant commander’s principal Indian victory, was displayed in gas illuminations at the principal entrance. In September 1848, “Major-General Sir Charles Napier, the Hero of Scinde,” appears on the arrival list. He was a resident when last summoned to take the command of the British Army in India.

**THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN**, in May, 1848. His Grace preached in the morning at St. Philip’s Church.

**THE YOUNG AFRICAN PRINCE CAULKER** was a long time located at the residence of the Rev. J. K. Foster, of St. John’s Lodge, in this town. “This interesting youth was son of Camar Bar, Chief or King of Bompey, in West Africa, brought to England under the patronage of the Countess of Huntingdon’s Missionary Society, 1853. During his six years stay in Cheltenham, he had the affliction to lose both his parents and his sight. His uncle has succeeded to his father’s throne of power in Bompey.” (*Cheltenham Examiner*, June 8, 1859).

**THE MARQUIS OF BREADALBANE**, Lord Chamberlain to Her Most Gracious Majesty, arrived in August 1853. “He regularly drank the waters at the Royal Spa, and expressed himself much pleased with our beautiful town.”

**THE LORD CHANCELLOR.**—“Lord and Lady Chelmsford, with the Hon. Captain Thesiger, arrived in Cheltenham on Saturday last, on a visit to Lord de Saumarez at Montpellier Lodge. Yesterday his lordship lunched at Southam, the seat of the Right Hon. the Earl of Ellenborough.” (*Cheltenham Examiner*, Sept. 8, 1858).

## GENERAL LEFEBVRE.

The wars of nations and the many trials and vicissitudes of those whose military profession oblige them to become actors in the scene of strife, have furnished abundant materials for the historian and novelist. The soldier-hero, in numberless instances, has a romance in real life to relate, more striking and remarkable than the imaginative fiction of a Bulwer. Every place in Europe is associated by some incident connected with the Wars of France and England during the Bourbon and Bonaparte dynasties. Even Cheltenham, removed and retired as it is from any military station, was, notwithstanding, called into notice by an event which it will be our aim to relate.

During the twenty-three years' war with France, many prisoners were made by both nations. These were taken to different towns, under various regulations, according to rank in life, until exchanged for others. The French prisoners appear to have been treated with kindness by their English captors, and there is no instance of any complaint being found in any of the foreign accounts of this protracted war. The prisoners, on the whole, seem to have been well behaved, for they conquered much stubborn prejudice that then existed, and became "at home" in the land of their captivity.

At the time when the war was at its height, prisoners of war were brought to Cheltenham. They consisted of three generals and several private soldiers. They were located in Cambray, the Tewkesbury Road, and the High Street. They were allowed a parole of three miles around the limits of the town. Among the number was General Lefebvre, unquestionably one of the most valiant and remarkable men that belonged to the military ranks of the great Napoleon. His life is a romance in history, and his connection with this place necessarily links the town with the general history of the French wars. He is well remembered by many of our residents, and is spoken of as a person of a very affable and mild demeanour. Albina, Countess of Buckingham, was at that time among the number of visitors, and she gave parties on a large and brilliant scale. In the list of the company present, as given in the local press, the names of the French General and his lady invariably appear. The noble captive mingled with the upper walks of society, and made himself familiar by his regular attendance at all public

places of resort. Nearly a year had passed pleasantly away, (without much on the part of the General to complain of in the way of English treatment, beyond the restrictions of parole), when the news ran through the town that the Frenchman had fled! The local consternation was great indeed. The town crier immediately proclaimed the news, bell in hand, to the astonished inhabitants. The only resident magistrate, headed by the manorial constables and a few of the townsfolk, hurried to the outskirts of the place to prevent escape. There was no police force in those days; and if there had been, they could not, with all their vigilance, have effected a capture. Lefebvre had well arranged his plans. When next heard of, he was fighting by the side of his beloved master, Napoleon; and in most of the severe engagements which had preceded the battle of Waterloo, he took an active part. Lefebvre and two other captive generals, during their local sojourn, occupied No. 131, High-street, directly facing the Colonnade. Gen. Lefebvre was a Count of the French Empire, and arrived in Cheltenham with his Duchess in February 1811. He was taken prisoner in a rencontre near Salagran, just previous to the retreat of Sir J. Moore; and by the intercession of Col. McLeod of this town, was placed at Cheltenham, in return for civilities received by him at France, while detained in that country as prisoner of war by Bonaparte. He was treated with the most marked attention by all the resident gentry, and was invited to all the parties of note. "Gen. Lefebvre was a great favourite of Bonaparte, who, we hear, had made him a Count. He was married to the daughter of an eminent banker of Paris. This lady had been now about twelve months in Paris, being permitted to come over and reside with the General in this town." "The General personated a German Count, took a post chaise in this town for London. Madame Lefebvre, who was attired in boy's clothes, passed for his son, and his Aid-de-Camp was in the humble capacity of valet-de-chambre. They alighted at an hotel in Jermyn Street, London. The feigned Count stated his intention of quitting England with his son, and that he came to London for the necessary passports. In the same style of travelling the party reached Dover, where a smuggling boat conveyed them to the coast of France." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*).

In the *Morning Post* of 1812, there is a Proclamation in

reference to the escape, and a government reward of ten guineas for the re-capture. The prisoner is described as "thirty-eight years of age, five feet ten inches high, slender made, oval visage, fair complexion, dark brown hair, grey eyes, has a small scar on the right side of the face. Amand le Duc, aid-de-camp to Lefebvre, is twenty-nine years of age, five feet ten inches high, stout made, oval visage, fair complexion, dark hair, hazel eyes, and marked with the small pox." It was deemed prudent after this escape to remove the other French prisoners then in the town. An order was shortly afterwards issued for their being sent to Abergavenny. The next news that appears in the local paper is the taking of Lefebvre a prisoner for the second time :—

"It is a matter of exultation to our townsmen, and genuine pleasure to ourselves, to have learnt the re-capture of General Lefebvre, who recently broke his parole, and escaped with his wife and servant from this place. He was taken by the gallant Kutusoff in the last discomfiture of the French near Wilna. During his stay with us, the polite attention of the nobility and gentry to him was as general as unremitting; invitation followed invitation, and marks of kindness succeeding endeavours to please;—thus every effort was used to palliate the ideal severity of retrenched liberty. In return for English courtesy, he flew to oppose British allies; and the sword, which honour and gratitude should have confined to the scabbard, is reared against us. We understand government purposes making application to the Court of St. Petersburg for the above officer; but we conceive he will save the Russians the trouble of delivery, by escaping to France: but should he arrive, he may rely upon not having the benefit of the Cheltenham Waters." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, January 1813). "When Gen. Lefebvre was taken prisoner at the skirmish of Benevente, in Spain, he requested Sir J. Moore would allow him to go to Calais by land, as a passage by sea always injured his health; and that, on his honour as an officer, he would proceed to Dover, and give himself up as a prisoner of war. Sir J. Moore replied, he might meet with some danger in crossing the channel, but he would allow him an English frigate, which he knew would go safe to any part of the globe without difficulty, and would soon waft him over the bay." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, Jan. 26, 1813).

"General Lefebvre is at this moment receiving the tributary cavalry horses in that capital, for remounting volunteers for the promised retaliative campaign in Russia." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, Feb. 18, 1813). The General was severely wounded in a conflict at Brienne, fighting by the side of Napoleon, and shortly afterwards died. The feeling of the inhabitants at the time appears manifest in an announcement in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of Oct. 17, 1816, of the arrival in the town of "Bonaparte's celebrated Military Carriage, taken at Waterloo, with its curious contents, as presented to the Prince Regent by Blucher. It is drawn by the same horses and driven by the same coachman as when the property of the ex-Emperor."

Intimately connected with the visits of the many eminent personages here narrated is the subject of local amusements. The earlier visitors, among whom were Royalty and some of the first English and foreign families of title, were patrons of dramatic performances, and, as a consequence, led to the establishment of a theatre in the town. To this fortunate circumstance Cheltenham owes its celebrity and fame in the pages of histrionic literature, and stands distinguished as one of the most important dramatic stations of the past century, as the next Chapter will fully detail.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### Dramatic History.

THE past history of the Drama in Cheltenham abounds in incidents of the deepest interest, connected with the progress of the histrionic art during the past century. These incidents, which we here record, reveal the pleasing fact that no town in England has contributed more to advance and elevate the Drama than our own. Small and rural as was the local population in the Elizabethan era, it yet gave support to the poor strolling player, as he passed *en route* with his rude scenic

property. So early as the year 1612, the following entry occurs on the Manor Rolls: "Presentment—that Dobbins sounded his drum up and down the town of Cheltenham, in the Market, accompanied by R. Clerke, and divers other young fellows; Clerke following Dobbins with a truncheon, like a lyvetenant or or marshallman, and proclaiming, that whosoever would hear a play should come to the Sign of the Crown." The borough was eminent for the quantity of malt which it made, which led to the erection of malt houses. It was in these buildings that the Drama was first performed; and even Royalty itself, with all the fashionable visitors of the day, had no better place to resort to. The visit of a body of comedians is thus noticed in the *Cirencester Flying Post*, of Aug. 6, 1744—the second county newspaper established:—

"We hear from Cheltenham Spaw, that the Warwick Company of Comedians, who are now entertaining the quality and gentry there, intend going from thence to Stratford-upon-Avon, with ten plays, selected from Beaumont and Fletcher, Shakespere, Ben Jonson, Dryden, Congreve, &c., never performed there before, being provided with clothes, scenes, and decorations for performing the plays of these celebrated authors."

Cheltenham occupies an important position in the history of dramatic literature. At the period when its mineral waters first began to attract visitors from all parts of Great Britain, a humble theatre graced the top of the present Pittville Street, in a court called "Coffee House Yard." Within the walls of this now demolished building, have appeared the greatest and most celebrated of modern performers. The original Cheltenham Theatre, although only an old malt-house and stable adjacent, fitted up and attached to premises then known as "Newcastle House," a sort of boarding-house—did in fact prove to a Siddons, a Kemble, and to others, a stepping-stone to their future greatness—raising them from the depths of poverty and obscurity to the highest rank in their profession. "Near Newcastle House being the sphere in which the brilliant genius of a Siddons did not disdain to shed forth its lustre. The 'tyring room' being a hay loft, and the 'arena' a stable, fitted up for the 'nonce.' The heroine in her sable garb of woe, came always in her chair, dressed for the character she had to perform, and was conducted by a miserable flight of steps to the general green room."

(Weller). Here it was that John Kemble performed for the first time in his life, when a poor youth, unknown to the world even by name.

The ever-to-be-remembered Mrs. Siddons stands indebted to the urbanity of one of the visitors to this "Queen of Watering Places" for her first introduction to the metropolitan stage. This was the Hon. Miss Boyle, daughter of Lord Dungarvon, an accomplished lady, and the authoress of a volume of poems. She was in after-life married to Lord O'Neil, of Shane's Castle, in Ireland, and her mother's second husband was the Earl of Aylesbury. The poetic talents which this young lady possessed, enabled her to more readily discern and appreciate those which were developed in the acting of Mrs. Siddons. Miss Boyle witnessed the performance of the then poor and almost unknown actress, at Cheltenham; and such was the favourable impression which it produced on her mind, that she wrote to Garrick, who invited Mrs. Siddons to London—an invitation which was accepted, and which led the way to fortune and to fame. Campbell, the well-known poet, has published a copious "Life of Mrs. Siddons," and he commences his sketch of her local career by remarking:—"In the course of the year 1744, Mr. and Mrs. Siddons were both engaged to act at Cheltenham. That place, though now an opulent and considerable town, consisted in those days of only one tolerable street, through the middle of which ran a clear stream of water, with stepping-stones that served as a Bridge." The author states that Miss Boyle, accompanied by her mother and the Earl of Aylesbury, having decided upon spending an evening at the theatre, went to the box-keeper to enquire concerning the piece selected for representation. Upon being told that it was "Venice Preserved," "they all laughed heartily, and promised themselves a treat of the ludicrous in the misrepresentation of the piece. Some one who overheard their mirth, kindly reported it to Mrs. Siddons. She had the part of Belvidera allotted to her, and prepared for the performance of it with no enviable feelings. In spite of much agitation, however, she got through it. She went home, after the play, grievously mortified." Of the abilities manifested by the then poor actress, in the truly arduous character which she attempted under such unfavourable circumstances, we are enabled to judge by the effect produced, which is thus narrated

by Mr. Campbell ;—" Next day, Mr. Siddons met in the street with Lord Aylesbury, who inquired after Mrs. Siddons' health, and expressed not only his own admiration of her last night's excellent acting, but related its effects upon the ladies of his party. They had wept, he said, so excessively, that they were unrepresentable in the morning, and were confined to their rooms with headaches. Mr. Siddons hastened home to gladden his fair spouse with this intelligence. Miss Boyle soon afterwards visited Mrs. Siddons at her lodgings, took the deepest interest in her fortunes, and continued her ardent friend until her death."

The following passage from the work entitled " John Halifax, Gentleman," (7th edition), graphically describes Mrs. Siddons's at the Coffee House Yard Theatre. " In a few minutes we had started in a flutter of gaiety and excitement for Coffee House Yard. It was a poor place, little better than a barn, built in the lane leading out of the High Street. This lane was almost blocked up with play-goers of all ranks, and in all sorts of equipages, from the coach to the sedan chair, mingled with a motley crowd on foot, all jostling, fighting, and screaming, till the place became a complete bear garden. The crowd grew denser and more formidable. I looked beyond it up towards the hills that rose in various directions round the town ;—how green and quiet they were in a still June evening. But now there came a slight swaying in the crowd, as a sedan chair was borne through, or attempted to be—for the effort failed. There was a scuffle, and one of the bearers was knocked down and hurt. Some cried ' Shame ! ' others seemed to think this incident only added to the frolic. At last, in the midst of the confusion, a lady put her head out, and gazed around her. It was a remarkable countenance ; once seen, you could never forget it. Pale, rather large in outline—an aquiline nose—full, passionate yet sensitive lips—and very dark eyes. She spoke, and the voice belonged naturally to such a face. " Good people, let me pass—I am Sarah Siddons." The crowd divided instantaneously, and in moving, set up a cheer that must have rang through all the town. There was a minute's pause, while she bowed and smiled—such a smile ! and then the sedan curtain closed. It was a glorious night. At this distance of time, when I look back upon it, my old blood leaps and burns. I repeat, it was a glorious night ! Before the curtain rose we



had time to glance about us on that scene—the inside of a theatre. Shabby and small as the place was, it was filled by all the *beau monde* of Cheltenham, which then, patronised by royalty, rivalled even Bath in its fashion and folly. Such a dashing of diamonds and spangled turbans, and Prince of Wales' plumes. Such an odd mingling of fashion, which was then in a transition state, the old ladies sticking tenaciously to the stately-silken petticoats and long bodices, while the younger belles had begun to flaunt in the French fashions of flimsy muslin's, short waisted, narrow skirted. But the play began. I am not going to follow it: all the world has heard of the *Lady Macbeth of Mrs. Siddons*. This, the first and last play I ever witnessed, stands out to my memory, after more than half a century, as clear as on that night. Still I can see her in her first scene, 'reading a letter'—that wondrous woman, who, in spite of her modern black velvet and point lace, did not act, but *was* Lady Macbeth: still I hear the awe-struck, questioning, weird-like tone, that sent an involuntary shudder through the house, as if supernatural things were abroad—'*They made themselves—air!*' And still there quivers through the silence that piteous cry of a strong heart broken—'*All the perfume of Arabia will never sweeten this little hand!*' Well, she is gone, like the brief three hours when we hung on her very breath, as if it would stay even the wheels of time. But they have whirled on—whirled her away with them into the infinite, and into earthly oblivion! People tell me that a new generation only smiles at the traditional glory of Sarah Siddons. They never saw her. For me, I shall go down to the grave worshipping her still."

Mrs. Siddons wrote a journal of her life, and in reference to this locality, she remarks—"Mr. King, by order of Mr. Garrick, who had heard some account of me from the Aylesbury family, came to Cheltenham to see me in the '*Fair Penitent*.' I knew neither Mr. King nor his purpose, but I shortly afterwards received an invitation from Garrick himself, upon very low terms. Happy to be placed where I presumptuously augured that I should do all that I have since achieved, if I could but once gain the opportunity, I instantly paid my respects to the great man. I was at that time good-looking; and certainly, all things considered, an actress well worth my poor five pounds per week."





*St. Mark's Church, Sheltenham.*

Mrs. Siddons pursued her career in London and the provinces with greater success than has ever fallen to the lot of any other actress. That she was the most extraordinary woman that ever trod the stage, is universally acknowledged. After realizing an independency she retired from public life. In a short time after her withdrawal from the stage, death deprived her of several near relatives, which broke her constitution, and brought on a severe indisposition. To remedy this, she was advised to take up her abode in Cheltenham, advice which was acted upon, as is evident from the following letter :—

TO MRS. FITZ HUGH.

“Birch Farm, Cheltenham, June 1803.

“Dear Madam,—The serenity of the place, the sweet air and scenery of my cottage, and the medicinal effects of the waters have done some good to my shattered constitution. I am unable at times to reconcile myself to my fate. The darling being for whom I mourn is assuredly released from a life of suffering, and numbered amongst the blessed spirits made perfect. But to be separated for ever, in spite of reason, and in spite of religion, is, at times, too much for me. Give my love to dear Charles Moore, if you chance to see him. Have you read his beautiful account of my dear Sally? It is done with a truth and modesty, which has given me the sincerest of all pleasures that I am now allowed to feel, and assures me still more than ever that he who could feel and taste such excellence was worthy of the particular regard she had for him.

“Yours very truly,

“SARAH SIDDONS.”

Mr. Campbell relates—“During her stay at Birch Farm, she was consoled by having her little daughter Cecilia with her. Her brother, John Kemble, and Charles Moore, also came to her in this retreat; and the whole congenial party left Cheltenham in July to make an excursion among the scenery of the Wye, which proved of benefit to Mrs. Siddons’ spirits.”

“Birch Farm,” so feelingly alluded to by Mrs. Siddons in her letter—“the sweet air and scenery of my cottage,”—was situate at the top of North-street, on the site of Camden villa, and near the present Clarence-square. This, and the whole of what now constitutes the Pittville Estate, was at the period the great actress wrote, a rural and retired portion of the vicinity, and occupied as farm land.

“The theatre at Cheltenham was under the management of its proprietor, Watson. He was of a respectable family of Quakers in Clonmel. In John Kemble’s younger days, he was a near ally of his, and both belonged to a strolling company. They lived, or rather by Watson’s account, *starved* together.

At one time they were left penniless; and after continued vicissitudes, Watson assured me, such was their distress, that at that time they were glad to get into a turnip field, and make a meal of its produce uncooked: and, he added, it was while regaling on the raw vegetable, that they hit upon a scheme to recruit their finances. And a lucky turnip it turned out. It was neither more nor less than that John Kemble should turn Methodist preacher, and Watson perform the part of clerk. The scheme was organized, and Tewkesbury was the first scene of action. They drew together, in a field, a numerous congregation; and Kemble preached with such piety, and so much effect, that a large collection rewarded his labours." (Kelly's *Reminiscences*).

The Kemble family performed in a barn at the Oldbury, in Tewkesbury, alternately with the Coffee House Yard Theatre, at Cheltenham. At the period this anecdote alludes to, they were in destitute circumstances, and walked from one performance to another across the fields, subsisting upon what they could pick up in their path. The elder Kemble was the manager, and his wife and young family were the principal performers. The remarkable abilities of Kemble must be evident from the fact that he was enabled to so ably personate the preacher. Two members of this family were driven to perform the same act during their journeys along the foot road between the two towns. The money on these occasions were received in a large old-fashioned nutmeg grater with a hinged cover. This relic was preserved at the Cheltenham Theatre with scrupulous care, by the late dramatic veteran, Mr. Adamson, the box-office keeper, who, in return for favours granted in his declining age, presented it to the late warm patron of the Drama—Earl Fitzhardinge.

The author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," has thus described the scene. The fictitious sermon was preached on the spot known as the "Bloody Meadow," and to an audience composed mostly of the agricultural population. "His harangue, although given as a sermon, was strictly a moral essay, such as might have emanated from any professor's chair. In fact, he had given for his text, one which the simple rustics received in all respect, as coming from a higher and holier volume than Shakespere,—'Mercy is twice blessed, it blesteth him that gives and him that takes.' And on that text did he dilate; gradually warming

with his subject. We had never heard such eloquence. At eighteen and twenty it dazzled me. No wonder it affected the rest of the audience. Feeble men leaning on forks and rakes, shook their old heads sagely as if they understood it all. And when the speaker alluded to the horrors of war—a subject that came so bitterly home to every heart in Britain—many women melted into sobs and tears. At last, when the orator, himself moved by the pictures he had conjured up, paused suddenly, quite exhausted, and asked for a slight contribution to help a deed of charity, there was a general rush towards him. ‘No—no my good people;—No, I will not take from any one more than a penny, and then only if they are quite sure that they can spare it. Thank you all, my very worthy and approved good masters, and a fair harvest to you.’ He bowed them away in a dignified and graceful manner, still standing on the hay cart. He descended from the cart. His companion burst into roars of laughter; but the preacher looked grave. ‘Hang me if I’ll be at this trick again. But starvation is—excuse me—unpleasant, and necessity has no law. It is of vital consequence that I should reach Cheltenham to-night; and after walking twenty miles, one cannot walk ten more, and afterwards appear as Macbeth to an admiring audience.’ The fact that, under a like necessity, the same amusing play was played out here years ago, as I told you, by John Philip—no, I will not conceal his name, the greatest actor, and the truest gentleman our English stage has ever seen—John Philip Kemble.”

We further record another incident, which, although trifling in itself, yet illustrates the trials and vicissitudes which this talented family passed through. Mr. Roger Kemble had set apart John Kemble to be educated for the church. The son, however, left the trammels of a college life, and launched into the then precarious profession of a theatrical performer. He had walked from Bristol to Wales, and from thence through Gloucester to Cheltenham. His necessities were great, and he was relieved by a subscription raised by the company attached to his father’s theatre at Brecknock. John Kemble, on his arrival in this town, made his first attempt at performing on the stage. “Here he made his *debut*; and although he continued to be received with some applause, his remuneration was so trifling, that he was at times involved in rather ludicrous situations,

arising from extreme distress. One night, when he was to appear as Ventidius, in 'All for Love,' he was much embarrassed by his landlady retaining his shirt, which she had to wash, until he paid fifteen pence which was due, but which it was impossible, in this emergency, to raise. The rest of the company were in equal distress; and to add to the want of a shirt, only one ruffle could be found among them. To elude the observations of the audience, Ventidius was therefore obliged to manœuvre, and he pinned the single ruffle on his right hand, and went through the whole of the first act with his left hand wrapped up in his cloak; but, naturally supposing that the audience would consider it strange that he should use only his right hand, he kept occasionally shifting the ruffle from one hand to the other, and thus evaded observation." (*Theatrical Times*).

In August, 1809, Mr. and Mrs. C. Kemble were in the height of their prosperity, and attracted crowded houses in Cheltenham, playing in the "Soldier's Daughter," and "Much Ado about Nothing."

Stephen Kemble, in his declining years, turned poet, and published a volume, entitled "Odes, Lyrical Ballads, and Poems, on various subjects, by Stephen George Kemble, comedian." Remembering the kindness he met with in early life from the local friends of the Drama, he thus appeals for support as an author, in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of May 25, 1809. "Long experience engendered hope that the same generous public that had so often listened to me with indulgence, might still cherish a favourable impression towards me, and thus be, in some small degree, prepared to receive graciously perhaps the last effort of a veteran actor to amuse them."

Kelly has recorded the local vicissitudes of another great name—Edmund Kean. The unrivalled personator of that extraordinary creation of Shakespere—Richard the Third, arrived with a strolling company in the town, and played to empty benches. Kean was driven to the necessity of begging a meal upon trust. Knowing that the daughter of a butcher, residing near the Red Lion, in the High Street, was a frequenter of his canvass theatre, he appealed to her for a small beef steak "on tick," to be paid out of the night's receipts. The girl complied with the request; but just as the actor had obtained the favour, the girl's father walked into the shop, and Kean, to

prevent his seeing it, hid the long coveted dinner behind him. A hungry dog passing at the time, seized the steak for his prey ; and that night, " Crooked-back Dick " was performed with a empty stomach ! But such are the fluctuations in an actor's life, that in a few years afterwards, when Kean visited this town, he was paid £50 for a morning performance, the same sum at Tewkesbury in the afternoon, and again at Gloucester in the evening—thus making £150 in one day !

" The all powerful attractions of Edmund Kean were on Tuesday last fully shewn, by the throng which attended our theatre to witness his unrivalled performance of Richard III. At the early part of the previous week all the boxes were taken ; and such was the desire to see him, that even the gallery became the resort of respectability ; the musicians relinquished their seats in the orchestra, taking their station behind the scenes." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, September, 1814).

The fame thus honourably acquired, has descended to the son. In the year 1861, the rank and fashion of Cheltenham assembled in the same crowded manner to witness the performances of Mr. Charles Kean, whose abilities as an actor have gained for him the especial patronage of the Queen of these realms.

In the obscure building in Coffee House Yard, the immortal personages who performed within its rude walls, were the means of first making the Drama locally popular. The taste thus created had its influence in due time. In 1782, a theatre was erected near the site of the existing York Tavern. This building, when compared with its successor, was of but small dimensions ; but its historical associations are now interesting. In this local Temple of the Muses have performed some of the most eminent actors of the past century, at a time when they were poor and unknown. Among the number who performed regularly in this primitive theatre, was Miss Mellon, the late Duchess of St. Alban's. To the honour of Mrs. Siddons " be it said that, at the very particular desire of some friends, she obligingly played here five nights, the first season it was opened—1782—in the characters of Portia, Calista, Mrs. Sullen, Belvidera, and Indiana." (*Cheltenham Guide*, 1786).

The success which attended this first attempt was so great, that Mr. Watson, in 1805, was induced to erect the late neat



and commodious theatre in Cambray. This, for a number of years, was continually crowded; and its prosperity was, to a great extent, aided by the frequent amateur performances of the Earl Fitzhardinge, and his two brothers, the Hon. Frederick and Augustus Berkeley.

In 1788, the performances at the Cheltenham Theatre were patronized by King George III. and family. His Majesty was so pleased with what he witnessed, that before leaving the town he constituted it a Theatre Royal by his letters patent. His Majesty's first visit is thus described by Madame D'Arblay in her Diary. The authoress was one of the maids of honour, and present on the occasion. After mentioning, that during the breakfast in "the little parlour" at Fauconberg House, one of the company expressed a wish to go to the Coffee House Yard Theatre, she says—"We talked over his usual theme—plays and players—and he languished to go to the theatre and see Mrs. Jordan. Nor did he languish in vain: his royal master, the Duke, imbibed his wishes, and conveyed them to the King; and no sooner were they known than an order was hastily sent to the play-house, to prepare a royal box. The Queen was so gracious as to order Miss Planta and myself to have the same entertainment. We went into a box near the stage, which is always appropriated for Mr. De la Bere, as chief magistrate, whenever he chooses to make use of it. Mr. De la Bere, and the sweet little Anne Dewes, accompanied us to their box.

"The delight of the people that their King and Queen should visit this country theatre, was the most disinterested I ever witnessed; for though they had not even a glance of their royal countenances, they shouted, huzzaed, and clapped for many minutes. The managers had prepared the front boxes for their reception, and therefore the galleries were over them. They made a very full and respectable appearance in this village theatre. The King, Queen, Duke of York, and three Princesses were all accommodated with front seats; Lord Harcourt stood behind the King, Lady Harcourt and Mr. Fairly behind the Queen; Lord and Lady Courtown and Lady Pembroke behind the Princesses, and, at the back, Colonel Gwynn and Mr. Bunbury; Mr. Boulby and Lady Mary were also in the back group."

The last visit is thus recorded in the *Morning Post* of Aug. 15, 1788: Cheltenham.—The Theatre.—Their Majesties, for the last time, on Friday evening, honoured the theatre here with their presence. The house was, as it will never be seen again, except on the same occasion. All the pit was laid into the boxes, and the two first rows of the gallery; the remaining part of the gallery was at the pit prices. The King and Queen came early. Amongst the audience were the following splendid list of names: Earls Bathurst, Oxford, Harrington, Courtown; Lords Rivers, Apsley, Maitland, Faulkland, Hamilton, Ducie; Ladies Pembroke, Harcourt, Courtown, Maitland. The upper boxes were crowded with all the fashion that Gloucester, Worcester, and the county could send. Amongst these were Doddington Hunt, and John De la Bere, Esqrs. Mrs. Wells, who had been sent for by order, appeared both in the play and farce, Julia in the “Midnight Hour,” and Cowslip. The best applause was the express approbation of their Majesties, signified through the means of the Manager, Mr. Watson. The playbills of the evening were printed upon satin. Mrs. Watson attended their Majesties with tea, between the play and entertainment. The following address was spoken by Mr. Charlton. It was much applauded:—

When the Majestic spirit of the Law  
Feels a Relief from Cheltenham's humble Spa;  
When George, our Constitution's sacred shield,  
Here, aids his Own, the Sceptre long to wield,  
All heart's must worship this dear, hallow'd ground,  
Health at whose Fount the King of Freemen found!  
Long may this spring preserve Great Britain free,  
By cheering Him who guards our Liberty!  
Here may his virtuous consort often dwell,  
Th' ador'd Hygeia of our Royal Well!  
And, oh! may these, High Windsor's charming Graces,  
In this low vale, show oft their blooming faces!  
Were the meek eye unfolds the modest mind,  
Though young, examples to all Womankind.  
But, we intrude, our homage now is due,  
To sacred Majesty, to you, and you.

[Bowing to their Majesties, then to the Princesses, and lastly to the audience.]  
Deigning to visit our small rustic scene,  
Proves that you think no subjects calling mean.  
Our humble manager still hopes each year,  
Of Duteous Loyalty to shed the tear,  
And thank again his Royal Patrons here.  
Long may your future joys excel the past,  
And Cheltenham, honoured thus, for ages last,

The great poet, Lord Byron, during his visits to Cheltenham, greatly assisted to establish the Drama on a popular footing. In connexion with the late Earl Fitzhardinge, he laboured to secure the engagement of all the most eminent actors of the day, and Mr. John Kemble and Mrs. Siddons, performed under his patronage the respective characters of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth; and Mr. and Mrs. Liston the characters of Solomon and Loretta in "The Quaker." The noble bard was a frequent guest at the table of the then Colonel Berkeley, at Berkeley Castle, and associated with the great dramatists and literary characters of the age, who at that time daily thronged the old baronial abode. The interest which Byron and Colonel Berkeley took in the inimitable Joseph Grimaldi, in his declining years, does honor to the memory of both. "Joe," the prince of clowns, was invited to Cheltenham three times, and performed two nights on each visit, during which time he was one of the guests at the Castle, and dined regularly with Byron and some of the leading nobility of the county. Some idea may be formed of the influence of the patronage which was bestowed upon the laughter-making Joe, when his proceeds of the receipts amounted to, on the first visit, £194, the second to £186, and the third to £150; and this will appear the more striking, when it is mentioned that this was only half the actual sum taken, the other half going by agreement to Mr. Watson, the proprietor. Grimaldi's first visit was in 1812, his second in 1822, and his last in 1823, when his declining health (which was temporarily restored by drinking the Cheltenham waters), rendered him unfit for any public engagement afterwards. Grimaldi left behind him a journal of his life, which has been edited and published by Mr. Charles Dickens, and from which we make a few extracts, in order to illustrate the popular feeling in favour of the drama in this locality at that period:—" 'Grimaldi,' said Colonel Berkeley, 'after breakfast, at which meal we expect your company, and that of Mr. Watson, you shall have a course with the greyhounds yonder; then you shall return and dine with us. We shall have dinner early, so as to enable you to reach the theatre in time to perform.' Upon their return to the castle, they found most of the company with whom they had breakfasted assembled together, and shortly afterwards they sat down to dinner. Lord Byron sat on Grimaldi's left.

Towards the end of the repast, Lord Byron invited him to eat a little apple tart, which he thought he could manage, as he was very fond of it, and the tart being placed before him he commenced operations. Lord Byron looked at him for a moment, and then said, with much seeming surprise, 'Why, Mr. Grimaldi, do you not take soy with your apple tart?' 'Soy, my lord.' 'Yes, soy; it is very good with salmon, and therefore it must be nice with apple pie.' Grimaldi did not see the analogy, he bowed assent to Byron's proposal, and proceeded to pour some of the fish sauce over his tart. After one or two attempts to swallow the vile mess, he addressed Lord Byron, remarking, 'However much the confession might savour of bad taste, he really did not relish soy with apple tart.' Grimaldi repaired again in the month of August to Cheltenham. During his stay he so far recovered as to be enabled to play at the theatre, then under the management of Mr. Farley. Here he encountered Mr. Bunn, who informed him that Mr. Charles Kemble was then starring at Birmingham, and that Colonel Berkeley having promised to play for his benefit, he had come over to Cheltenham to ascertain what part the Colonel would wish to play. Grimaldi strolled into the green-room, and there met Colonel Berkeley, who said that he very much wished to play *Valentine* to his Orson; to which Grimaldi replied, it would give him great pleasure to afford him the opportunity whenever he felt disposed. 'Very well,' said Colonel Berkeley, 'then we will consider the matter settled. You must come to Cheltenham for one night. I will make all the necessary arrangements with Farley: your son shall play the *Green Knight*, and I will give one hundred pounds as a remuneration. We will try what we can do together, Joe, to amuse the people at Cheltenham.'

In Ruff's "Beauties of Cheltenham," published in 1806, occurs the following account of the state of local theatricals in that year:—"Of the theatre itself, it may be said, without flattery or falsehood, that it vies with any throughout the kingdom—except those of the metropolis. The band is led by Mr. Buckingham, a veteran in the service of *Euterpe*. In short, the internal beauty and management of this theatre reflect great credit on the liberality and management of Mr. Watson. The scenery, executed by Mr. Seward, must not be forgotten; the

whole is in perfect unison with the foregoing, and it may be said with truth, that few, if any theatres in the kingdom, exceed this in design and execution. The first-rate actors find a liberal reception by the managers of the Cheltenham Theatre. Every season the visitors are regaled with the most popular performances, in which the rich notes of Incedon, the *naïvete* of De Camp or Mellon, or the broad farce of Munden or Bannister, are displayed with the happiest effect. We cannot omit to notice the achievements of Mr. Richer on the tight rope. Fortune can do little in unbefriending such a man, since he is without a rival." Such was the condition of the Drama in Cheltenham nearly 60 years ago, and how striking a contrast does it afford to the present dearth of public amusements of a theatrical kind. The Mr. Richer alluded to, was, we believe, the most eminent tight-rope dancer on record, and was highly esteemed, and admitted into the first circles of society. This individual, who contributed greatly towards establishing the fame of our once flourishing theatre, died recently at the adjacent village of Swindon, in affluent circumstances.

There are many now living who can testify to the liberal patronage which was formerly bestowed upon the Drama of this place—when the theatre was nightly thronged, and the same pieces were repeated by desire, amid the plaudits of the auditories. Among the many novelties which were produced about this period, was the performance of Richard the Third, by a Miss Fisher, only thirteen years of age. This young lady was styled "The Young Roscia," and appears to have caused, by her performance, an extraordinary sensation. An event so remarkable, is deserving of publicity; and in order to perpetuate the remembrance of its occurrence, and to illustrate the zeal with which theatricals were formerly maintained, we publish the following notice, which appeared in the *Gloucester Journal* of July 8, 1805:—"THE CHELTENHAM THEATRE.—The Young Roscia.—We live in a very extraordinary age, and wonderful characters are daily starting up, both in the political and dramatical world. A young man, barely 26 years old, conquers Italy, routs the finest armies of Austria, and, within four succeeding years, seats himself upon a throne of a mighty empire, which had been filled by a long line of hereditary monarchs. What Bonaparte is as a politician, the Young Roscia

appears to be as a player; and we must contemplate her as an object of real astonishment. The above phenomenon, whose name is Fisher, has every right to the title by which she is emphatically called—‘The Young Roscia.’ She made her *debut* on the Cheltenham boards in the character of ‘Richard the Third,’—a character which, of all others, requires great judgment and discrimination, and a constant attention to stage effect; for, whenever Richard is silent with his tongue, he is significant by his actions. There is much abstraction in the soliloquies, and perpetual bustle in the camp scenes; both of these were no small obstacles to encounter, but both were most successfully surmounted by the Young Roscia. The figure of this most extraordinary being is elegant, proportionate, and interesting; her countenance is remarkably expressive; and the intelligence of her features, and the strength and flexibility of her voice give her, in these respects, a decided superiority over her rival of the opposite sex. She is not yet thirteen years of age!! The first soliloquy of Richard was delivered with judgment and force; and the scene in which he murders King Henry, was played with peculiar skill and discrimination, and drew down loud and deserved applause. In the celebrated scene with Lady Anne, she was uncommonly happy, though perhaps rather too loud—where Richard presents her with his sword to stab him, &c. The expression of—

‘To the Tower! aye, to the Tower!’

was admirably delivered; and in the soliloquy, after the young princes are sent thither, she was uncommonly happy in describing the vices of men, and the ambition of Richard. The quarrel with Buckingham, a very difficult scene, was excellently played. The news of his defection, and of the invasion of Richmond, was received in a manner which astonished the audience; and the celebrated exclamation—

‘Off with his head!—so much for Buckingham!’

drew down thunders of applause. The tent scene, and the battle scene, close the life of the usurper; and these were played in a very superior style of excellence. The spirit, the energy, and the fury of a disappointed usurper, were never more admirably delineated. In her dying scene, she was eminently successful. Upon the whole, the talents of Miss Fisher suffer

no diminution from comparison. The voice of approbation was loud and general; and the present commendation will receive a support from every one who was fortunate enough to witness her exertions. It is but fair to mention that she had travelled the whole of the preceding night, without the refreshment of slumber; and that her father declares that she never saw the play of 'Richard the Third' acted before! Let these things be considered, and they will justify us in asserting with Johnson, that she 'is not the greatest, only because she is not the first.' Her performance of Richard was allowed by those who had seen both of them, greatly to exceed that of her well-known rival," Henry Betty. This last-named celebrity, called the "English Roscius," performed at Cheltenham in June, 1806.

"Fashionable Theatricals. The anticipated Amateur Play at our theatre, on Tuesday evening, was one of the most brilliant performances of its nature we ever witnessed; and it was maintained with such mastery, that though the night had passed previous to its conclusion, the audience were amused and delighted to its end. The vindictive Iago, supported by Col. Berkeley, (Earl Fitzhardinge), was a perfect portraiture; and while it gave the just and living picture of the poet's genius, reflected matchless lustre on the talents of the performer. Capt. Austin represented the Moor, and Capt. Berkeley Cassio." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, 1814).

On July 9th, 1816, the late Duke of Wellington, and a large party of the nobility, attended, when the celebrated Madame Vestris performed in the "Rencontre," by His Grace's desire. The Duke and Duchess paid a second visit in August, 1828, when the same actress was again engaged, and played in "The One Hundred Pound Note."

On October 3rd, 1809, the theatre was honoured with the presence of three members of the Royal Family, who were then on a visit—the Duke of Sussex, the Duke of Gloucester, and His Serene Highness the Prince of Orange. The pieces played were the "Busy Body" and "Turnpike Gate," and were for the benefit of Miss Jameson. The celebrated local tight-rope dancer, Richer, performed the whole of his inimitable manœuvres, with his accustomed ease and elegance, and was cheered with the warmest plaudits of their Royal Highnesses, who appeared highly satisfied, as well as of a very crowded audience. The

*Cheltenham Chronicle*, of Sept. 20, 1810, announces, that after the performance of Mrs. Jordan on the Tuesday previous, the receipts were £113 19s.

One of the most successful of our local female performers, after Mrs. Siddons, was the Miss Mellon before alluded to. Her mother and father-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Entwisle, kept the Post Office for a number of years in this town. It was in connection with our original theatre, that Miss Mellon was enabled to gain that fame which afterwards led her to fortune. It was in our Old Well Walk that she was first seen and admired by her after husband—the rich banker. The then poor Miss Mellon was advised to play in London—an event which led to her becoming Mrs. Coutts. A few years afterwards, when Duchess of St. Albans, she once more visited this town, and became a warm patron of that theatre which had been chiefly instrumental in placing her in the titled and wealthy position which she then occupied. We remember, with satisfaction, the crowded houses which assembled to greet her presence in the box, and the unlimited nature of her gifts to the local poor; and last, though not least, her erection of the tablet in our churchyard to the memory of her deceased parents.

“It was at Cheltenham that Miss Mellon displayed those abilities for the stage which in after-life acquired her fame. Here it was that she resided with her mother and father-in-law, who kept a music shop and post office on the premises now occupied by Mr. Williams, brush maker, in the High Street.”

The intimate connection of this lady with the early history of our local theatricals, is so little known, that we will quote from the “*Memoirs of the Duchess of St. Albans*,” a passage illustrating her first benefit, and her interview with Mr. Coutts.

“Mrs. Entwisle, by her frank lively manner, and love of gossip, was very popular among the middle classes; so that, with her innate skill, she had always the power of ‘making good her own story’ to a large majority, who, in their turn, spread the story further; and, therefore, when she detailed how ‘hardly the master of ceremonies had behaved to the dutiful child, who had relinquished every shilling of her earnings for her mother’s support,’ there were few residents in Cheltenham who did not hear of and sympathize in the tale. Miss Mellon accordingly came down to gather a golden harvest from such well-prepared



ground. Her female friend, of course, accompanied her ; and when these two handsome and ladylike young women, guarded by the Argus parent, Mrs. Entwisle, went round to request patronage, it may be supposed that few were inclined to refuse them : in short, Miss Mellon's benefit was such a dazzling triumph over the mortified master of the ceremonies, that it is said he never forgave it. At that time there was, among the visitors at Cheltenham, an elderly invalid gentleman, who did not join in society, but passed many hours daily taking exercise in the Long Walk. Mrs. Entwisle soon discovered, by hints dropped by his servant to the lodging people,—who, however, did not know his name,—that 'his master, notwithstanding his penurious appearance, was considered one of the richest people in London ; but that he was very unhappy in consequence of thinking that his wife, also advanced in years, was going out of her mind,—which preyed on his spirits so much, that he had been ill, and was now trying Cheltenham for a change. Her immediate reflection was, that the richest gentleman in London might take a box at the theatre for the benefit night, though he was ever so sad ; and this idea was communicated to her daughter. A respectful note of solicitation to that effect was given to the attendant at the pump-room, a few days before the performance, to present to the remarkable-looking old gentleman ; but as no answer was returned, the three females decided that 'the moping, thin old creature, was too full of his own troubles to care about those of other people.' On the day but one after sending their note, Miss Mellon and her friend were sauntering very early in the Long Walk, when they were overtaken by the old gentleman. He introduced himself to Miss Mellon, whom he said he knew by sight in Drury-lane green room,—to apologize for not having sooner answered the application, for which he accounted by a great pressure of London correspondence ; but he trusted his silence had been considered an assent to patronising her laudable filial efforts, of which he had heard admirable accounts at every turn in Cheltenham. The young ladies tendered their best thanks and brightest smiles. Their new friend mentioned that he had the pleasure that morning of sending to the post office his answer respecting the box ; and after a conversation of some length, they separated, mutually pleased. On hastening home, they found Mrs. Entwisle in

ecstasies. There is no knowing what grand vision had been conjured up in her wild brain; but the tangible circumstance was, that she held in her hand an open letter from the old gentleman,—‘the richest person in London,’—who had enclosed five guineas for a box, which he desired should be kept for Mr. Coutts; Mr. Coutts!—*the* Mr. Coutts!—well might the servant hint that his master was ‘the richest person in London;’—a man whose name was a proverb of wealth even in country towns. Thus Mrs. Entwisle raved, wondering at her husband’s stupidity, that when any one had called for letters to Mr. Coutts, he had not directly guessed he was the thin old gentleman, and told her so! But the young friends defended Mr. Entwisle, by exclaiming against the idea of anyone supposing that the *great* Mr. Coutts, who managed the royal family, and commanded everything he liked, could be an old, pallid, sickly, thin gentleman, in a shabby coat and brown scratch wig. Peace was soon restored, as Mrs. Entwisle was in a sunny humour after the day’s adventure. The new acquaintances met generally in their early promenade in the Long Walk; and when the day of the benefit performance arrived, Mr. Coutt’s paid Miss Mellon the compliment of promising to occupy the box, although he had only taken it to patronize her, without intending to go.” (Mrs. C. B. Wilson).

The authoress thus alludes to a townsman who has done much towards creating a local taste for the legitimate Drama:—“When the Drury-lane season terminated, Miss Mellon went immediately to stay with her mother in Cheltenham. A great patroness of her’s was there, the Viscountess Templetown, the amiable Lady Mary Montague, daughter of the Earl of Sandwich. When Miss Mellon’s second benefit was announced, Lady Templetown bespoke the pieces, and mentioned the actress so effectually among the distinguished visitors at Cheltenham, that the second benefit exceeded that of the first.” The playbills are still extant, at Mr. T. B. Shenton’s, at Cheltenham. “Sept. 11, 1804, under the patronage of Lady Templetown, for the benefit of Miss Mellon, ‘The Child of Nature,’ Amantis, Miss Mellon; with ‘Lovers’ Quarrels,’ Jacintha, Miss Mellon; to conclude with ‘The Midnight Hour,’ Flora, Miss Mellon.”

In the shop of Mr. Stone, No. 331, High Street, may be seen one of the earliest-known play bills announcing the performance

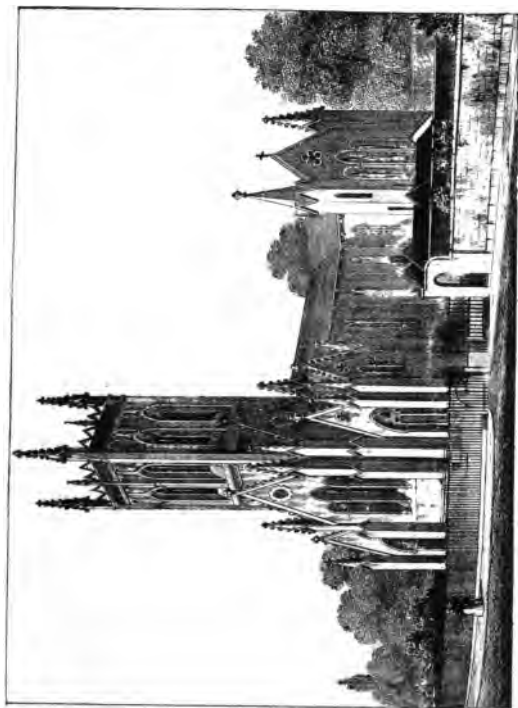
of Miss Mellon. This local relic of the Drama reveals, both in its orthography and typography, a humble state of things. It is of small size, is preserved in a glazed frame, and dated 1802. It is here given verbatim.

"Mr. Buckle's night. Several ladies and gentlemen have expressed a wish to see Miss Mellon perform again, Mr. Buckle is proud to announce that she has obligingly consented to perform for his benefit, which is the only night she can possibly appear here, as Drury-lane Theatre opens on Saturday next. Theatre Royal, Cheltenham. On Thursday, Sept. 9, 1802, their Majesty's servants will act Mrs. Cowley's fashionable Comedy, 'A Bold Stroke for a Husband;' the part of Olivia, Miss Mellon: to which will be added, 'The Devil to Pay,' Miss Mellon having been particularly requested again to perform the character of Nell. Boxes, 3s. 6d.; Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Doors open at 6, and begin at 7. Tickets and places for the boxes to be taken of Mr. Adamson, box-keeper, at the Theatre, from 10 to 3, and afterwards at No. 8, or Mr. Entwisle, music shop, and of Mr. Buckle, No. 167. Cheltenham: Printed by Shenton, at the Mercury Press."

The *Cheltenham Chronicle*, of March 9th, 1815, announces, that on "Wednesday, was married, at St. Pancras' Church, Middlesex, Thomas Coutts, Esq., to Miss Harriet Mellon. The charitable disposition of this lady, entitle her to the good wishes of all. She is daughter of Mrs. Entwisle, of this town, and is now the mother-in-law of the Dowager-Countess of Guildford." The same paper also records on the 11th May following, the death of the mother of the Duchess, at the age of 63. The Parish Church was hung with black, upon the occasion of Mrs. Entwisle's funeral. The service was conducted, and the sermon preached, by the Rev. Dr. Foulkes, and the procession included two thousand parishioners. Her daughter, the Duchess of St. Albans, during her visits to the town, erected monuments to her mother's memory, both in the church and churchyard. These memorials were restored a few years since by Miss Burdett Coutts, the heiress to the rich Duchess, during a local sojourn.

Mr. T. B. Shenton, to whom Mrs. Wilson acknowledges her obligation for contributions towards her memoir of the rich Duchess, has been for many years a popular amateur performer. The *Cheltenham Examiner*, of April 1, 1857, records,—“That Mr. T. B. Shenton, our veteran amateur and townsman, has just been presented with an elegant silver snuff box, by J. Rolls, Esq., as a token of the personal appreciation of the donor, and as some return for the services which, at a short notice, were rendered by him in supplying his (Mr. Rolls) place at the performance given by the gentlemen amateurs, at the Royal Old Wells, on Friday the 20th ult.”





*Christ Church, Cheltenham.*

The theatre, which was for so many years a source of attraction both to visitors and residents, was destroyed by fire on May 3, 1839. It was a calamity that will long be remembered, and was one of the most destructive local fires known, as will be evident from the accounts in the local press :—

**“ AWFUL FIRE.—TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE  
THEATRE ROYAL.**

“ It is our painful duty to describe the utter demolition of this much improved place of rational amusement. The first intimation of this awful calamity was given about four o'clock yesterday morning—strange to say, not by any beholder of the fire, but by a person occupying a room in the adjoining house, whom the extreme heat awoke, and who then discovered the cause to be the entire envelopment of the theatre in one mass of flame.

“ After some delay, the engines arrived, but not till such time as the total destruction of the building was completed. The chief object of those conducting the directions of the hose was, therefore, the protection of the adjoining houses : in this attempt, we are happy to say, the parties concerned were completely successful,—not one of the surrounding buildings being at all damaged, with the exception of a cellar occupied by Mr. Garrett. It was a most merciful circumstance that there was scarcely a breath of air stirring. The stationary appearance of the flames can be best illustrated by the comparison of an enormous fire purposely enclosed within four walls, whence they shot up in a continued and overwhelming column, of intense brilliancy and fearful beauty. One by one as the ponderous beams fell in, myriads of sparks clustered above the high and sparkling beacon of ruins. So intense was the action of the fire, that no single article could be saved ;—everything perished,—pit, gallery, boxes, ceiling, stage, scenery, dresses, properties, books, music,—all became amalgamated in one huge mass of burning matter.

“ One of the musicians, Mr. North, lost a valuable double bass ; and the wardrobe-keeper, some private dresses. We are happy to say these are the only sufferers in the theatre, except the manager, Mr. Grattan, whose loss is very considerable. The toil and expense of the last eight months employed in beautifying the theatre, adding to and repairing the scenery, (of which, in

conjunction with many others, we were, last night, speaking in terms of the highest praise), his hopes of being compensated for the losses he has already sustained, now the fine weather has set in, and from the impossibility of fulfilling his star engagements, are all lost and thrown away.

"No cause can be assigned from which the fire could have sprung. The performances last evening were "Douglas" and "The Little Jockey," in neither of which are there any pistols or stage fire used. The foot and chandelier lights were extinguished in Mr. Grattan's presence at 11 o'clock. The house was then gone over by Mr. Cox, Mr. Collett, and Mr. Smith, of High Street, and found to be perfectly secure; there have been no fires used for two days. Soon after the alarm, Mr. Grattan, Mr. Cox, and Mr. Hartell were on the spot, but to save the theatre was hopeless." (*Cheltenham Free Press*, May 4, 1839.)

We recall with pleasure the many dramatic representations witnessed in this temple of entertainment, aided by the talent of Ward, Wallack, Sheridan Knowles, T. P. Cooke, Yates, Anderson, Spencer, Macready, Boucicault (the author of "The Colleen Bawn,") Penley, Crisp, Howard, and a host of others equally celebrated. The local amateurs, who are numerous, have done much to popularize the drama; while the large sums given to witness their performances have benefitted the charities of the town,—thus practically demonstrating the beneficial influence of the study of dramatic literature. Well and truly was this influence expressed in a prologue spoken by W. M. Tarrt, Esq., J.P., upon the occasion of one of these amateur performances for benevolent objects, given at the Assembly Rooms, in January, 1849, and which called from the *Times* the remark,—“The result is good, and the means are harmless :”

“But should they fail, be it understood,  
We take your money only to do good,  
And, if you cannot yield us your applause,  
Withhold your blame in homage to our cause;  
We come to aid ‘the greatest of the three,’—  
The pure and holy being—Charity?”

Besides the theatre destroyed by fire, there existed another, which, although unassuming in character, for many years enjoyed

a deserved popularity. This was the Sadlers' Wells Theatre, situate at the bottom of St. George's Place, and still in use as a private dwelling. It was established by a talented family of the name of Seward, and, in character, was similar to the Marionette Theatre of the metropolis. Automaton figures moved and acted with all the reality of life, whilst the deception was heightened by well-executed scenery. This place was well supported, and perhaps was the best provincial exhibition of its kind. Its decay was coeval with the death of its original founders.

Cheltenham is further associated with the past history of the Drama, from its possessing a record which has tended to elucidate the text of Shakespere on a most interesting subject. The ancient custom of applying the title of "Sir" in lieu of the modern one of "Reverend" to divines of the Church of England, was prevalent at the time Shakespere wrote his plays, and consequently the great dramatist uses the prefix "Sir" in the sense that we now use that of "Rev." The practice of this custom is fully proved by the record of burials during the reign of Elizabeth, preserved in the vestry at the Cheltenham Parish Church. The perpetual curates or incumbents who held the living since the Reformation, are registered "Sir,"—the last instance being that of "*Sir* John Evans, Curate of Cheltenham," under date of August 31st, 1574. We directed attention to this fact in 1844, and the public announcement had the effect of producing a discussion of the subject, and of settling the question at issue. Mr. Halliwell, who has done so much towards elucidating the text of the inimitable bard, availed himself of the discovery, and addressed the following letter, which was promptly replied to by the clerk in charge of the document :—

" Brixton Hill, Surrey, Nov. 17th, 1853.

" Sir,—I should feel very deeply obliged if you could furnish me with a literal copy of the entry in the Cheltenham Register of Burials, Aug. 31st, 1574, of the burial of '*Sir*' John Evans, Curate of Cheltenham. I merely desire it for the purpose of showing the ancient custom of clergymen being styled '*Sir*,' to illustrate a passage in Shakespere; and being solely for a literary object of this kind, I feel sure you will obligingly excuse this intrusion.

" J. O. HALLIWELL."

To Mr. Halliwell we are also indebted for the preservation of the site of Shakespere's residence at Stratford, and for its becoming public property.



Another local incident connected with Shakespere, is the fact that his favourite Jug and other relics were for many years deposited at the adjacent residence of Mrs. Tuberville, at Charlton House; and at that lady's decease in 1844, these mementos of the immortal bard passed to Mrs. Fletcher, of Gloucester, formerly Miss Hart, of Tewkesbury, a collateral descendant of Joan Hart, the bard's favourite sister. The Jug is of cream-coloured earthenware, ornamented with raised figures, in somewhat clear relief. It is divided longitudinally into eight compartments, and horizontally subdivided, and within these some of the principal deities in Grecian mythology are represented. A few years since, a neat silver top was added, intended as a profile of the bard. This relict was originally given by Shakespere to his sister Joan, from whom it has regularly been possessed by the female descendants—the Harts of Tewkesbury. Many members of the Hart family, who also take the name of Shakespere, lie interred in the churchyard of the Abbey Church, at Tewkesbury, where monuments to their memory still exist.

There are also local associations which show a connection with the tragic muse. In the vicinity have been born those who, in their day, exerted by their dramatic compositions a great influence on the public mind. Northway, near Ashchurch, was the birth-place of William Cartwright (1611); Tewkesbury that of Richard Estcourt (1668); and Bourton-on-the-Hill that of Sir Thomas W. Overbury (1581). All these were the contemporaries of Shakespere, and, like him, tended to create that taste for the stage, which will endure so long as the world values the representation of human virtues. It was in the town, or around it in the environs, that so many of our modern dramatic writers composed their celebrated works. Here have repaired Sheridan Knowles, Bulwer, Jerrold, Kemble, Millett; and here it was that "The Love Chase," "Ion," and "Alladin," were principally composed.

We have seen, at the commencement of this chapter, that the locality was always favourable to the encouragement of the Drama; that long before a building was set apart—more than two centuries since—the poor strolling player found his patrons among the inhabitants of "Old Cheltenham." There are records extant which shew the early period at which plays were locally

encouraged for religious objects. The parochial documents of Tewkesbury and other neighbouring places, reveals some very curious facts.

"The county histories prove that dramatic performances were formerly practised in the church. One account states that the following entries were recorded in the churchwardens' books : 'A.D. 1578, paid for the players geers, six sheepskins for Christ's garments ;' and under date of 1585, 'Order eight heads of hair for the Apostles, and ten beards, and a face or vizor for the DEVIL !' These curious extracts are further shown to be historically true by the following entry which appears in the book kept by the bailiffs of the borough for 1584 :—'*Laid out by them unto players, in wine to the justices, rent for their market standing, and to the clerk of the market, and in seneschal money, £3 15s. 8d.*' It is truly singular, yet nevertheless true, that at one period religious plays were performed at most churches of England after Divine service, and at Tewkesbury Abbey Church among the number." (*Bennett's Tewkesbury.*)

Fosbrooke quotes Smythe and Strutt to verify the charges contained in vestry documents in reference to players, and cites the performance of "The Lord of Misrule," on Sunday, at Woolton Church, and adds that the "company marched to church with drummers thundering !" After plays were discontinued in churches, they were performed, by the aid of wooden figures dressed in character, in the public streets ; and, according to Hall, this county was especially celebrated for its religious plays. Punch and Judy is a relict of these old miracle plays : "the representation is of the august scene in the hall of judgment,—Punch being a corruption of the name of a principal character, Pontius Pilate, and Judy, of Judith his wife." (*Chambers' Journal*, May, 1861).

The modern history of the Drama, locally speaking, is rendered further interesting by the connection by residence of one of the greatest delineators of dramatic literature of the present age. It is a singular coincidence that the same retired and beautiful locality should have been selected by Macready for his residence, as was chosen by a Siddons. Not far from the spot where Birch Farm was located, and where the tragic actress abode in her declining years, Macready, full of well-earned honours, and in the enjoyment of health and domestic happiness, now abides.

It is a remarkable fact that our local press has recorded the first appearance of this great man on the stage. The editor of the *Cheltenham Chronicle*, of Sept. 26, 1816, introduces the following notice in his account of dramatic news. "At Covent Garden, last week, Mr. Macready came out as *Orestes* in the 'Distressed Mother.' His voice and person are well adapted to the stage. He was highly applauded by a crowded audience; and we are much deceived if he does not ultimately bear away the palm from most of his contemporaries." The prophecy has been fulfilled. Macready has won the laurels of fame, and has retired, honoured and respected, to that town whose local press forty-five years ago predicted his future success in life. Long may he continue his abode among us, and, like the inimitable Siddons, derive invigorating strength and support in his later years from the salubrious air of Cheltenham. Macready has done much to advance the cause of the legitimate drama. His performances in this town at the Cambray Theatre, will for ever live in the remembrance of those who had the good fortune to witness them. This eminent tragedian, like John Kemble who made his first start in life in Cheltenham, was educated for the Church. This, no doubt, accounts for his success in after-life, through being enabled to unite a high intellectual culture with the profession of an actor. So it should always be; the performer ought ever to thoroughly understand and appreciate the composition of the author he attempts to illustrate on the stage. William Charles Macready was born in London on March 3, 1793, and received his education at Rugby, under the celebrated Dr. Arnold. Here he was distinguished for his classical acquirements; and had he entered the church as intended, he might, with his great oratorical powers, have become a popular preacher. But Shakespere had more influence over his highly gifted mind than any ecclesiastical institution, however wealthy; and it was fortunate for the interests of the Drama that his thoughts were so directed. We are indebted to him for many refinements of the stage, and for elevating the tone of natural taste. His career was one of the most marked success. Not only England, but America and France courted his services; and it is said that he drew together the largest theatrical audiences that ever assembled in the United States.

“Mr. Macready lives in all the endearments of domestic association—his private character is most exemplary, and his nature most benevolent to all those who come within its scope. In a word, he is in every sense eminently—the gentleman.” (*Theatrical Times*.)

The family connections of this great man have been many years residents. His brother, Major Macready, lies interred in Leekhampton churchyard, and the high esteem in which he was held, induces surviving relatives to adorn his tomb with a variety of floral productions, which render it, as it deserves to be, a source of attraction both to visitors and residents. The memorial is a massive cross, and affection has covered the grave with flowers of all hues.

“Mr. Macready, whose heart is as simple and affectionate as his genius is mighty, has, since his retirement from the stage, devoted a large share of his energies to the benevolent task of extending education amongst the youth of his country.” (*Cheltenham Examiner*, April 6, 1859.)

The best testimony to the private virtues of the great tragedian is to be found in the following lines, penned as a dedication to an exquisite volume of poems, recently published by his daughter, Miss Catherine F. B. Macready:—

“TO MY FATHER.

“For ever loved, revered—my heart’s first friend,—  
Tender as love itself, and true as truth,  
I would that men might see thee with my eyes,  
Know thee as I have known—then should fame’s wreath  
(Bound on thy brows of yore) new semblance take,  
And show thee halo’d with celestial light!  
Yet I, who know thee best, and have enshrined  
Thy virtues in my soul, shall feeblest prove  
To speak, how dear thy worth!—That which has been  
Most noble in thee, never can be known.  
Oh, loving lips, long silent in the grave,  
Could but the old life warm them for a space,  
How would they echo now my poor applause.  
And oh, if this adventurous tongue can boast  
The transcript of one pure intent, true thought,  
Orgenerous aspiration, unto thee  
Alone be praise! All good my life can show  
Is of thy teaching, and in offering thee  
This lowly tribute of my grateful love,  
God knows, I give thee but thine own again!”

The Dramatic history of Cheltenham, it must be confessed, belongs to the past. The crowded auditories which assemble to witness the occasional performances that take place, demonstrate that a taste for the Drama yet exists in the locality; but no public theatre has supplied the place of the one destroyed by fire. This state of things is most deeply to be deplored; for, while on the one hand we admit that much reformation is needed in the theatrical taste of the present day, yet, on the other hand, we contend that the stated performance of the legitimate Drama—the productions of Shakespere, Otway, and Massinger—would be of incalculable benefit to the community, by creating a love for virtuous actions. The theatre, in a reformed state, would, in our opinion, be an important and highly influential school of morality, and we should rejoice to once more witness the erection of a building in this town devoted to the rational and instructive amusements of the Drama.

The regular and stated representation of the legitimate Drama in this town is much required from the circumstance of its being a place of resort for the wealthy and fashionable, as well as for the invalid. However salutary the effects of the long-since justly celebrated chalybeates of Cheltenham may be, yet we were always of opinion that the end for which they have been resorted to, would even be more effectually attained by opportunities being afforded to invalids of enjoying the innocent and exhilarating delights of varied recreation. Rational amusements are alone wanting to give a full and more effective force to its great and attractive power, by rendering it at once the seat of health, the abode of recreative enjoyment, and innocent, invigorating pleasure. It is not the mere abstract efficacy of the waters themselves, powerful no doubt as they are in their effects, which can afford the visitor all that he proposes to himself, or expects to await him during his sojourn at a fashionable watering place;—he expects to find an agreeable combination of different little pleasures and amusements on various scales of attraction,—all calculated to promote, by their operation on the mind, in several succession, the great and paramount benefit which he hopes to derive to his bodily health from the frequent use of these healing waters.

When reflecting upon the more celebrated individuals who have, in by-gone days, contributed by their histrionic talents to

amuse the visitors and inhabitants of Cheltenham, we can but regret the want of a theatre at the present day. That a town surrounded with a population of 50,000, should not possess a temple wherein the tragic muse might be celebrated, is remarkable, and certainly not in unison with human progression. Never was there a time more than at the present moment, when the friends of the drama ought to exert themselves, and endeavour to create a public taste for theatrical performances. The tendency of the age is evidently towards temperance, and the time formerly employed in more debasing pursuits, will, in future, be bestowed upon objects more rational. A gloomy state of society, without pleasurable excitement, will invariably lead to drunkenness and infidelity. Man was made to enjoy, as well as to labour, and one of the best means that can be adopted to aid the great moral movement now in progress, would be the establishment of innocent recreations, through the medium of the legitimate Drama. The stated performance of first-rate actors at Cheltenham, besides contributing to the public amusement, would have a direct tendency to promote good morals; for in the plays of the best authors there is nothing which can possibly be objected to by the strictest moralist, nor does religion itself say one word against the drama. Its great founder never deprecated the theatrical establishments of Herod the Great, although the Jews were taxed to support them; and even St. Paul quotes a dramatic poet, which shews his acquaintance with the Attic Drama. False notions have too long been current respecting the play and players; but if objections are calmly weighed, they will be found to be made against the *abuse*, and not against the *right use* of the stage. The greatest writer of the present century, the Rev. Dr. Channing, truly remarks:—"I can conceive of a theatre, which would be the noblest of all amusements, and would take a high rank among the means of refining the taste and elevating the character of the people. The deep woes, the mighty and terrible passions, and the sublime emotions of genuine tragedy, are fitted to thrill us with human sympathies, with profound interest in our nature, with a consciousness of what man can do, and dare, and suffer, with an awed feeling of the fearful mysteries of life. The soul of the spectator is stirred from its depths; and the lethargy in which so many live, is roused, at least for a time, to some intensioness

of thought and sensibility. The Drama answers a high purpose when it places us in the presence of the most solemn and striking events of human history, and lays bare to us the human heart in its most powerful, appalling, and glorious workings."

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## CHAPTER XIX.

### Political History.

**H**ISTORY and tradition unite in proving that at one time Cheltenham returned two members to the House of Commons. It was, doubtless, from the circumstance of the town being monastic property, that such a right was first created. So early as the ninth century, a Priory existed, and the principals of these religious institutions were summoned to serve in Parliament, and their various constituencies were compelled by legal enactments to contribute towards their support. That the town of Cheltenham was represented in Parliament so early as the reign of Henry III., is evident from the fact related by the editor of "Camden's Britannia," that the King exchanged away the manor in order to rid himself of two troublesome members — "certain religious men, who intermingled secretly in matters of state. (Edition of 1695, p. 178.) Prinn has also recorded the particulars of this interesting fact. The historians who record the statistics connected with the various monasteries and Catholic institutions which once were scattered over this extensive country, include Cheltenham among the list of places sending Parliamentary representatives. Richard de Cheltenham, Abbot of Cheltenham, in the fourteenth century, is particularly mentioned by Prinn, as M.P., of the borough. Another Abbot of Cheltenham is also alluded to in Hillarii Commissiones, 5 Eliz. vol. 2, as having defended the rights of the Stanway copyholders in former times, in Parliament. This

was the celebrated Abbot who was afterwards the principal of Tewkesbury Abbey, where he was buried in 1509, and where a beautiful Gothic altar tomb yet exists to his memory. The attempts which were at different times made to gain an exemption from this privilege, on the ground of its expense, also confirm our view of the case. One of the terms of the grant of the manor, made in the fifth year of the reign of Edward IV., to the Abbess of Sion, was, "to be free of charges of knights and burgesses of Parliament." As a general rule only Mitred Abbeyes were allowed to send Parliamentary representatives. But other ecclesiastical bodies were also empowered with the same right of which this town is an example. This arose from the intimate connection which then subsisted between the Church and State, and at the Parliaments which were then summoned at Gloucester and other places, the affairs of the Church engaged more attention than those of the State.

The dissolution of religious institutions by Henry VIII. caused a large amount of poverty in England, and consequently produced a complete change in the representative system. The chaotic condition of those towns which, like Cheltenham, were monastic property, was truly lamentable, and many of them fell into decay and obscurity. This was so much the case, that a sufficient number of members could not be obtained to serve in Parliament, and Queen Elizabeth had to appoint a body to examine into the constitution of the various towns which neglected to send representatives, with a view of ascertaining whether or not the same ought to be exempted. This enquiry, the "Pascha Recorda" and Parliamentary documents of the period relate at length, and Cheltenham is among the places mentioned as not having sent members according to ancient custom. Dyde affirms that the town was in such a state of poverty, that the Lord of the Manor petitioned Elizabeth to be relieved "both from the trouble and expense of sending two members to Parliament, as had been the practice in former times," and also that the said Lord of the Manor, William Norwood, Esq., had an injunction filed against him for not carrying into force various rights of the borough, "but more especially that of neglecting to see duly fulfilled the ancient custom of the electors of returning at every election, when called on by the Crown, two members to Parliament." The



trial of William Norwood, Esq., which took place in the thirty-second year of the reign of Elizabeth, is among the Prinn manuscripts, and Sir John Popham, the Queen's Attorney-General, in his opening speech, upon stating the case to the court, remarked that the defendant, among other things, claimed to be free from sending knights and burgesses to Parliament." This trial having been decided in favour of the Lord of the Manor, no attempt was again made to enforce the return of members to Parliament; the practice fell into disuse, the town into an insignificant village, and but for the records of the past, its once great and important chartered privileges would have been, long ere this, forgotten.

The poverty of the borough (anciently) becomes apparent from the attempt which the then voters made to get excused from their Parliamentary duties, more especially when the smallness of the sum required is considered. The wages received by M.P.'s were fixed by the 16th of Edward II., at the low rate of four shillings per day for County, and two shillings for Borough members. There are instances where, upon the plea of poverty, a less sum was fixed. Sir John Strange, the M.P. for Dunwich, agreed to take "a cade and half a barrel of herrings for his wages." Cheltenham was not the only place which raised the objection on the score of expence. The large county of Lancashire was returned by the sheriff as a place "where no cities or boroughs could, on account of their poverty, send any citizens as burgesses to Parliament."

From the Elizabethan era downwards, there is a complete blank in the political history of the town. The inhabitants having, for nearly two centuries, been deprived of their ancient electoral rights, hailed with delight the movement set on foot to amend the representative system of England, by Earl Grey, Lord John Russell, and others, and the passing of the Reform Bill was celebrated on September 26, 1831, by a public dinner at the Assembly Rooms, and by an illumination on August 10, 1832. To commemorate the event a statue of William IV. was erected in the Imperial Nursery, near the Queen's Hotel. This Act enabled the ratepayers of Cheltenham once more to become electors, and from the first carrying out of that memorable enactment, the thread of our political history, may be said to recommence.

It is an interesting fact, and one deserving of record, that, although the place for so long a time lost the privilege of having a representative of its own, yet at different periods the residents have taken an interest in county elections. So early as the year 1666—the reign of Charles II.—we are informed by Atkyns that upwards of 200 persons residing in the town and hundred were qualified to vote for the county by virtue of their freehold possessions. At the great county election in 1776, one of the most warmly contested and protracted on record, 57 inhabitants of Cheltenham polled, as will be hereafter detailed.

Intimately connected with the modern portion of our political history, is the name of Captain Grey. When the great Reform agitation was convulsing the length and breadth of the land, this individual, by his powerful and eloquent speeches, aroused the inhabitants of the town to a sense of the value of the proposed Reform Act, as a means of enabling Cheltenham to obtain a Parliamentary representative. Consequently, public meetings were held from time to time, until the Bill passed, and at them the respected Captain invariably attended, and in most instances he was chosen as the chairman. For twenty years Captain Grey was an inhabitant of Cheltenham, and, although blind, during a portion of that period, he took an active and consistent part in connection with political movements. He died on April 26, 1835, and as a proof of the esteem in which he was held, it will be necessary to mention that his remains were honoured with a public funeral. Lord Segrave (Earl Fitzhardinge), Hon. C. F. Berkeley, M.P., and J. Brown, Esq., of Salperton, were among the pall-bearers, while the followers comprised the principal inhabitants of all shades of political opinions; and as the mournful cavalcade proceeded to St. Mary's Churchyard, it was watched by thousands of spectators, many of whom had come from a distance. Capt. Grey commanded the 1st troop of Gloucestershire Yeomanry, raised during the French war, and had a handsome piece of plate presented to him by the officers on August 15th, 1809.

At the taking of the census in 1831, the population was found to be 22,942, and consequently, under the Reform Act, the town became entitled to a parliamentary representative. The 10th day of December, 1832, was fixed for the nomination of a

candidate, and the Hon. Craven Fitzhardinge Berkeley had the honour of being returned, without opposition, the first member of this "Queen of Watering Places." Three years afterwards a general election occurred, when the standing member again solicited the suffrages of the electors in the Liberal interest, as did also William Penn Gaskell, Esq., B.A. (a descendant of the founder of Pennsylvania) on the Radical interest. The election took place in 1835, and at the close of the poll the result was as follows :—

Hon. C. F. Berkeley (Liberal)	...	...	...	412
W. P. Gaskell, Esq. (Radical)	...	...	...	25
Majority of Votes for Berkeley	...	...	...	<hr/> 387

For the second time Mr. Berkeley was accordingly returned as the Parliamentary representative; and, at the general election in 1837, he again declared himself a candidate. At the same time he was opposed by Jonathan Peel, Esq., a conservative gentleman, and nearly allied to Sir Robert Peel, Bart. The contest terminated thus :—

Hon. C. F. Berkeley (Liberal)	...	...	...	632
Jonathan Peel, Esq. (Conservative)	...	...	...	298
Majority of votes for Berkeley	...	...	...	<hr/> 334

The next general election was in 1841, and Mr. Berkeley once more presented himself on the hustings, and was again destined to be the successful candidate, although the contest was a severe one. Two other persons were also put in nomination with him—James Agg Gardner, Esq., Lord of the Manor, a gentleman professing conservative principles, and Col. Peyronet Thompson. At the close of the poll the numbers were thus declared :—

Hon. C. F. Berkeley (Liberal)	...	...	...	764
J. A. Gardner, Esq. (Conservative)	...	...	...	655
Col. Thompson (Radical)	...	...	...	4
Majority of votes for Berkeley	...	...	...	<hr/> 109

In 1847, another general election occurred, and the event gave rise to one of the most spirited and exciting political agitations which the town ever witnessed. The candidates were the Hon. C. F. Berkeley, Sir Willoughby Jones, Bart., of Norfolk, and

Capt. C. Smith,—the two latter gentlemen being in the conservative interest. The contest thus terminated :—

Sir W. Jones, Bart. (Conservative) ... ..	1015
Hon. C. F. Berkeley (Liberal) ... ..	907
Capt. C. Smith (Conservative) ... ..	4
Majority of votes for Jones ... ..	108

The return of Sir W. Jones was opposed by a petition to Parliament, on the ground of alleged bribery practices. On May 28, 1848, a Committee of the House of Commons reported that the last Election for Cheltenham was null and void, in consequence of the agents of Sir W. Jones having been guilty of bribery. This decision led to another contest. On July 28, 1848, the Hon. C. F. Berkeley and J. A. Gardner, Esq., the same candidates as in 1841, were again proposed, and the result was as follows :—

Hon. C. F. Berkeley (Liberal) ... ..	1028
J. A. Gardner, Esq. (Conservative) ... ..	859
Majority of votes for Berkeley ... ..	169

A petition was presented against the Hon. C. F. Berkeley, founded upon a then local practice of giving electors refreshments. On Aug. 24, 1848, the House of Commons committee who heard the case, declared the election to be void, on the ground that several friends of Mr. Berkeley had practised treating. Thus, once again the suffrages of the electors had to be solicited. By these decisions, both Sir W. Jones and the Hon. C. F. Berkeley were disqualified from sitting in Parliament until after a dissolution had taken place. Consequently, both political parties brought forward new candidates. The Liberal interest was represented by Grenville C. L. Berkeley, Esq., a cousin of the late M.P., and the Conservative interest by Bickham Escott, Esq., a gentleman of the county of Somerset. On Sept. 2, 1848, the nomination took place, and the following were the number of votes recorded :—

Grenville C. L. Berkeley, Esq. (Liberal) ... ..	986
Bickham Escott, Esq. (Conservative) ... ..	835
Majority of votes for Berkeley ... ..	151

Grenville Charles Lennox Berkeley, Esq., who was thus returned for the first time for the borough, was second son of the late Admiral the Hon. Sir George Berkeley, G.C.B., by the daughter of Lord George Lennox. He was born in London, 1806; married, 1827, Augusta Elizabeth, daughter of J. H. Leigh, Esq., of Stoneleigh Abbey, and sister to the first Lord Leigh. He was formerly a captain in the 52nd Regiment of Light Infantry. He held office under the Aberdeen administration; and after he retired from the representation of this borough, he was chosen M.P. for Evesham. At the general election in 1852, the same candidates entered the field as in 1847, and the choice of the voters rested for the seventh time upon the original member—the Hon. C. F. Berkeley. On July 8, 1852, these gentlemen were again nominated, and the official return was thus declared:—

Hon. C. F. Berkeley (Liberal)	...	...	...	999
Sir W. Jones, Bart. (Conservative)	...	...	...	869
Majority of votes for Berkeley				130

The lamented death of the Hon. C. F. Berkeley, who had represented the borough in the House of Commons for a period of twenty-three years, again caused the electors to make another choice. Two candidates presented themselves. One was Grenville C. L. Berkeley, a former member, and William Ridler, Esq., a banker of the town. The nomination occurred on July 14, 1855, and the returns were as follows:—

Grenville C. L. Berkeley, Esq. (Liberal)	...	...	...	760
William Ridler, Esq. (Conservative)	...	...	...	178
Majority for Berkeley				582

In consequence of Mr. Berkeley receiving a lucrative appointment under government, as Commissioner of Customs, he had to resign his parliamentary office. The result was another election in the borough. On May 8, 1856, Capt. (now Col.) Berkeley, a cousin of the former representative, and G. Halliwell, Esq., one of the local magistrates, were put in nomination. At the close of the poll, the numbers were,—

Captain Berkeley (Liberal)	...	...	...	841
G. Halliwell, Esq. (Conservative)	...	...	...	655
Majority for Berkeley				186

*St. Mary's Church, Baltimore*





In the following year, an election again took place. The nomination day was on March 27th, 1857. The sitting member was unopposed—a circumstance without a precedent since the town had enjoyed the right of returning a representative. This incident was so ably alluded to in the Address issued at the time by the elected member, that we here transcribe it in lieu of “the state of the poll :”—

“ TO THE ELECTORS OF THE BOROUGH OF CHELTENHAM.

“Gentlemen,—I return you my sincere thanks for the distinguished honour which you have again conferred upon me, in electing me as your Representative in the House of Commons. That honour is considerably enhanced when I remember that this is the first Election, since 1832, at which the Candidate brought forward by the Liberal Party has been returned, without opposition, by the large and independent constituency of the Borough.

“I trust that this will be the commencement of a new era in the history of Cheltenham, and that with the cessation of Party strife, our highly-favoured town will go on increasing in prosperity.

“While faithfully maintaining the Liberal opinions which I have expressed in my previous addresses, I shall at all times have great pleasure in giving my best attention to suggestions received from any of my constituents.

“Again returning you my grateful thanks for the generous confidence you have thus unanimously reposed in me,

“I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

“FRANCIS W. F. BERKELEY.”

“George Hotel, March 27, 1857.”

At the general election in 1859, the former member again solicited the suffrages of the electors, as did also Charles Schreiber, Esq., a gentleman whose family connections reside in the town. The day of nomination was on April 30th, and from the Returning Officer's statement annexed, it will be seen that it was one of the severest contests the borough had witnessed, the votes being nearly equal for both candidates :—

Colonel F. W. F. Berkeley (Liberal) ... ..	922
Charles Schreiber, Esq. (Conservative)... ..	910
Majority for Berkeley ... ..	12

From the foregoing statistics it will be seen, that for a period of nearly thirty years the town has enjoyed the privilege of being represented in the great council of the nation. During this time it has made considerable progress in population, and consequently there has been a proportionate increase in the



number of electors. In 1832, when the Reform Act came into operation, there were not a thousand persons eligible to vote; but in 1843, the number of registered electors of the Borough of Cheltenham were declared by the revising barrister to be 2,100; and in 1845, he fixed the number at 2,300; in 1851, at 2,295; in 1860, at 2,385; in 1861, at 2,695; and in 1862, at 2,493. With a population of 40,000 persons, it is certainly to be desired that increased political rights may be acquired, and that the most fashionable and celebrated watering-place in England will once more recur to its ancient practice of electing *two* parliamentary representatives. May the historian of the future be enabled to record the enjoyment of extended political rights by the inhabitants of Cheltenham, and may those who shall have obtained those rights, consider that they hold them as a trust highly responsible, not for the benefit of their constituency alone, but for the community at large, for the purpose of advancing the moral, political, and social well-being of the whole human race.

From what has been adduced, it appears that members of "the noble House of Berkeley" have represented the borough in Parliament since the passing of the Reform Act. The present M.P. has filled the office since 1856. He is Lieut.-Colonel of the South Gloucestershire Militia, and holds similar rank in the Hussars and Horse Guards. He is allied by marriage to the present Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Winchester, having married Miss Sumner, eldest daughter of Colonel H. Sumner, M.P. In Dod's "Parliamentary Companion" for 1861, the M.P. for the borough, is thus described:

"Berkeley, Francis William Fitz-Hardinge, M.P. for Cheltenham, eldest son of the Right Hon. Sir Maurice F. Fitz-Hardinge Berkeley, by his first wife Lady Charlotte, sixth daughter of the fourth Duke of Richmond. Born 1826; married 1857, Georgina, only daughter of Col. Holme Sumner, of Hatchlands, Surrey. Educated at Rugby. Appointed Captain Royal Horse Guards, September, 1853; retired December, 1857, when he became Honorary Colonel of the South Gloucester Militia; appointed Lieut.-Col. Commandant of the same regiment, 1860. A Liberal: in favour of the extension of the suffrage to £5 householders, and vote by Ballot, the abolition of Church Rates, and the general but not compulsory education of the people."

The Hon. Col. Berkeley is the eldest son, and consequently the heir to the title and estates of the gallant and patriotic statesman and defender of his country—the Lord Fitzhardinge, so long known as the Right Hon. Sir Maurice Fitzhardinge

Berkeley, who on August 3, 1861, was created by the Queen to the dignity of "a Baron of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, by the name, style, and title of Baron Fitzhardinge, of the city and county of Bristol."

This nobleman was born in 1788. He first married in 1823, a daughter of the fourth Duke of Richmond, who died in 1833. In 1834, he contracted a second marriage with Lady Charlotte, third daughter of Earl Ducie. This gallant nobleman first entered the Navy in 1802, and distinguished himself in 1803, at the capture of a schooner and boats. He commanded the gun boats in the Tagus, co-operating with the troops in the lines of Torris Vedras, for which he was thanked in public by the Duke of Wellington. He commanded the *Thunderer*, 84 guns, at the capture of St. Jean d'Acres, for which he was made a C.B., and received a gold medal. He was made a Vice-Admiral of the Red in 1858, and a Admiral of the Blue in 1862; was a Lord of the Admiralty from April, 1833, to December, 1834; from July, 1837, to March, 1852; and from 1852, to December, 1857. He represented Gloucester in Parliament, from December, 1832, to April, 1833; from 1835 to 1837; and from 1841 to 1857. He was created in 1861 a Knight of the Cross :—

"Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint Vice-Admiral the Right Hon. Sir Maurice Frederick Fitzhardinge Berkeley, K.C.B., to be an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the First Class, or Knights Grand Cross, of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath." (*Court Gazette*, July, 1861.)

He has also for many years served the office of a deputy lieutenant of the county. By his first marriage he has two sons and two daughters. The eldest son is the Hon. M.P. for Cheltenham,—the second son is the Hon. Charles Paget Fitzhardinge Berkeley, M.P. for Gloucester. The eldest daughter married Lord George Gifford.

"Charles P. Fitzhardinge Berkeley, born in 1830, married Dec. 6, 1856, Louisa Elizabeth, only daughter of the late Henry Lindow, Esq.; Frederica Charlotte F. Berkeley, married April 2, 1845, to Lord Gifford. Fenella Fitzhardinge, married, in 1851, to Major H. Armytage, of the Guards." (*Burke's Peerage*.)

The first visit of the newly-created Lord Fitzhardinge to the town, after his accession to the title, was on Nov. 27, 1861, upon the occasion of his presiding at a Meeting of the Colonial

Missionary Society, at the Assembly Rooms. The opportunity was taken to present his Lordship with an Address, congratulating him upon the honour which had been so justly conferred upon him. The address was presented at the Queen's Hotel, by a deputation comprising representatives of all classes and parties, and the particulars of the meeting will be found in the chapter on Modern Events.

The inhabitants of Cheltenham were also anciently connected with the elections of members for the county. The journals of the House of Commons contain an entry in relation to the town at one of these contests, which is probably the oldest on record. From the reign of Charles the First down to George the Third, in petitions that had been presented, the polling of the freeholders of the Borough occurs in connexion with some very curious facts.

In April 1640, the committee of privileges, touching the election of Sir Robert Tracey, reported that they found, "many misdemeanours in the said election, and were, therefore, of opinion that Sir Humphrey Trecey, sheriff of the County of Gloucester, should be sent for as a delinquent by the serjeant-at-arms"—which order was rescinded on Mr. George's undertaking for the appearance of Sir Humphrey. There are other entries in 1662, 1695, and 1702, touching the petitions from Sir John Guise, Bart., against the several returns of Sir Baynham Throckmorton, Mr. Howard, Mr. Stevens, and Mr. Howe. April 9, 1694, the committee and the house determined "That Sir Thomas Estcourt, having a majority of votes on the poll, was duly elected and returned, although he had declared at the election that he desired not to be chosen." In June 1776, "the Hon. George Berkeley, and a number of freeholders, petitioned against the return of W. B. Chester, Esq., and the partiality shown by the High Sheriff of the County," &c. Out of this case arose the first material improvement in the registration of land-tax assessments. The merits of the petition were tried in 1777. It appeared to the committee that the owners of many estates paid no land tax, directly. Small estates carved out of larger, had been purchased free of land tax, the owner of the principal estate paying the tax for the whole after the dismemberment, and was rated for it. In the course of a few years it often became difficult for the owner

of the parcel of land to prove that his land was assessed or paid for. The next entry in this case is an amusing example of parliamentary infallibility. A difficulty arises by reason of divers electors having one and the same name. The committee solve it, not by any resolution to proceed with the examination of that individual who can speak to the most important matters under consideration, or give the best evidence to such facts as bear most stringently on the questions referred to them. There are three persons of the name of "John Ballinger," of Cheltenham, who had polled in the Cleeve district. Resolved—"That as several John Ballingers appear on the poll, the evidence shall be *confined* to the John Ballinger who polled on the first day." The committee, after a three months' sitting, declared the sitting member duly elected; finding, at the same time, no cause to impeach the conduct of the High Sheriff.

It would seem, on reference to all the documents connected with the subject, that the inhabitants in ancient as well as in modern times, have generally voted on the side of civil and religious liberty. At the severely contested election (last mentioned) in 1776, the Liberal candidate had a majority of 41 over the Conservative, at Cheltenham. The poll commenced on May 6, 1776, and ended on the 17th following. In order to illustrate the number of freeholders then in the borough, we extract the names of those who voted from "the Poll Books for Booth XI., Cheltenham Hundred," as scrutinized.

FOR HON. GEORGE BERKELEY, LIBERAL, 49, *VIZ.* :—

James Arkel, James Averis, John Ballinger, William Benfield, Thomas Barnard, Richard Belcher, Daniel Cook, John Creffer, Thomas Carpenter, John Cook, Robert Cox, Thomas Clark, John Collins, Richard Cherrington, John Cooper (Arle), Thomas Collett, Thomas Clements, John Cox, Thomas Finch, Robert Fisher, John Gregory, William Gregory, sen., William Gregory, jun., Richard Hooper, Thomas Humphreys, Richard Humphreys, Robert Hancock, Richard Hooper, Benjamin Mason, William Neale, Thomas Pope, James Putniss, William Wills, Thomas Wills, Thomas Townsend (fee farm rent upon the Manor of Cheltenham), John Roberts, John Read (Arle), William Skillecorne, Edmund Smith, Thomas Stone, William Surman, John Sandford, James Sergeant, Thomas Thornton, Edward Wood, Samuel Wells, John White, Thomas Yatman, John Acock.

FOR B. W. CHESTER, ESQ., CONSERVATIVE, 8.

Rev. T. W. Bidwell, John Chester, John De la Bere, David Davis, John Gregory, Daniel Lloyd, Richard Newman, Edward Timbrell.

At the general election in 1701, three candidates entered the

field for the county—John Howe and Maynard Colchester, Esqrs., Conservatives (the sitting members), and Richard P. Cocks, Esq., a Whig. On this occasion, the freeholders resident in Cheltenham gave the preference to the Liberal candidate by 25 votes to 4, and he was elected by the County in lieu of Howe, who had rendered himself unpopular by his prosecution of Dissenters. In order to form an idea of the state of public excitement at that time, which was the last year of the reign of William and Mary, we should consult the journals of the day. It is an interesting fact, that the last words penned by the great Lord Macaulay, in his fragmentary “History of England,” published by his sister, in March 1861, had reference to this county election, in which the Cheltenham freeholders took so conspicuous a part. The departed historian thus graphically records the local feeling then prevalent:—

“There was one district to which the eyes of hundreds of thousands were turned with anxious interest—Gloucestershire. Would the patriotic and high-spirited gentry and yeomanry of that great county again confide their dearest interests to the Impudent Scandal of parliaments, the renegade, the slanderer, the mountebank, who had been, during thirteen years, railing at his betters of every party with a spite restrained by nothing but the craven fear of corporal chastisement, and who had in the last Parliament made himself conspicuous by the abject court which he had paid to Lewis, and by the impertinence with which he had spoken of William. The Gloucestershire election became a national affair. Portmanteaus full of pamphlets and broadsides were sent down from London. Every freeholder in the country had several tracts left at his door. In every market place, on the market day, papers about the brazen forehead, the viperous tongue, and the white liver of Jack Howe, the French King’s buffoon, flew about like flakes in a snow storm. Clowns from the Cotswold Hills and the Forest of Dean, who had votes, but who did not know their letters, were invited to hear these satires read, and were asked whether they were prepared to endure the two great evils which were then considered by the common people of England as the inseparable concomitants of despotism, to wear wooden shoes, and to live on frogs. The dissenting preachers and the clothiers were peculiarly zealous. For Howe was considered as the enemy both of conventicles and of factories. Outvoters were brought up to Gloucester in extraordinary numbers. In the city of London the traders who frequented Blackwell Hall, then the great emporium for woollen goods, canvassed actively on the Whig side.”

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## CHAPTER XX.

*The Spas.*

HAVING devoted a chapter to a detail of the first discovery of the far-famed Mineral Waters, the first establishment of the Royal Old Well, and first planting of the fine avenue of elm trees, we now purpose to notice the various Pump Rooms at present used for dispensing these health-restoring waters to the public. The various Spas are justly regarded as among the "lions" of the place. These institutions have been so judiciously laid out in their walks and drives, that each has a marked character of its own, and presents to the spectator peculiarities of style, of architecture, and landscape gardening. This variety and distinctiveness of the ground plans of the Spas adds to their attractiveness, and suits the taste of all who may be desirous of partaking of their advantages. In this respect, Cheltenham surpasses all other watering places, for the most delicate invalid can, in the midst of a crowded town, repair to the Spa, and in the walks enjoy all the solitude of the country. In the formation of the Spas, all tastes have been met. The Royal Old Well, whose walks are immortalised by the many Royal and noble personages who have visited it, presents, from its central situation and ancient avenue of trees, attractions of no ordinary nature. The Montpellier, with its garden, affords a like retreat on a smaller scale; and the unique Gothic Cambray Spa is easily accessible from its locality. Pittville Spa, from its distance, invites exercise, and its noble Pump Room and "Fairy Lake" fill the beholder with the most pleasing sensations.

## ROYAL OLD WELL.

The historical associations connected with the Royal Old Well invest it with peculiar interest, both to the resident and visitor. Here it was that those mineral waters, whose fame is now known throughout the civilized world, were first accidentally discovered in 1715-16. In 1738, the establishment was founded, and from that time to the present it has gone on

improving. The original Pump Room was but a small cottage : it was followed by a more spacious one ; this gave way to another, which the requirements of the age rendered too plain and distasteful, until ultimately the present classic structure was reared, which in dimensions exceeds any similar building in the town and county. The Old Well Walk stands without a rival.

“ O'er-arched with elms,  
Waving aloft their tow'ring branches proud.”

The picturesque view afforded by the long and uniform row of majestic trees must be witnessed to be realized : no language can adequately describe the effect produced upon the beholder who sees it for the first time. The venerable spire of St. Mary's Church forms a terminus to the prospect, rising in perspective from the centre of the walk on the north, while on the reverse side, the view ends with a mimic representation of an old baronial castle, the summit of which is approached by a spiral staircase. Amongst the many pleasing devices in the walks and grounds, are rock-beds beneath the shade of some trees, where various beautiful specimens of the fern tribe belonging to the locality have been cultivated.

#### AN APOSTROPHE.

A VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE WELL WALK, CHELTENHAM.

(*From Poetical Guide, 1781.*)

Here, walks, beset with branching trees,  
A grateful shade bestow ;  
When Summer's unrelenting breeze  
Enervates all below.

O ! let me here with ——— stray,  
And mark yon shining spire ;  
See Nature ev'ry charm display,  
To wake the Muse's fire !

And oft admire, with ravish'd eyes,  
Each lovely smiling view :  
There, hills that meet the concave skies,  
And lose their tops in blue ;

Here meads, by Flora's bounty bless'd,  
Array'd in lively green ;  
And villas, deep in woods embrac'd,  
That cheer the varied scene.

Elysian vale ! thy bounds I'll trace,  
 When Sol first paints the sky ;  
 And when he sinks with broaden'd face,  
 In haste to close his eye.

And oft as Morn shall shed her dews,  
 Fair Chelt'nham, let thy spring,  
 With copious draughts refresh the muse,  
 Thy matchless joys to sing.

Cheltenham, 1781.

T. B-N-R-D.

The first discovery of these celebrated waters is associated with the legend of the pigeons. It is said that, in 1715, Mr. Mason having purchased a field at the foot of Bays Hill, observed that pigeons flocked to the head of a stream which flowed through it, to peck calcareous particles there deposited in its course. On this account, the pigeon has ever been an ornament connected with the Royal Old Wells.

Another incident which attracted attention at the time, was that of a horse who was in a diseased condition, having become cured from drinking at the springs. These narrations we give on the authority of manuscripts quoted at large in a former part of this work, and we see nothing in them but what is probable. It is a known fact, that at Vichy, in the month of April, when the snow melts upon the mountains, and the wind passing over the springs in the direction of the Pay de Dome, has carried the vapour to a considerable distance, the ruminating animals on the left bank of the Allier swim across, and drink with avidity at the salutary springs of the establishment. The waters are then fit for use.

The date above cited as the one when the waters first attracted attention, is no doubt correct, for Allen, who, in 1699, published his "Chalybeate and Purging Waters of England," makes no mention of the place. The first account of an analysis is in 1721, by Drs. Baird and Greville—the former a medical practitioner at Worcester, and the latter at Gloucester. The first published description of the discovery by the pigeons and horse, was by Rulry, in his "Methodical Synopsis of Mineral Waters," who remarks,—“it is not unlikely to be the true one, several efficacious mineral springs having been discovered by diseased animals being seen to resort to them and to regain their health.” The justly celebrated medicinal virtues of the waters arise solely from the geological structure of the soil through which they



pass. Along the course of the Lias, medicinal springs abound ; there is no other part of England where they rise so thickly, or of a quality that exerts a more powerful influence on the human frame. The mineral waters of Cheltenham, for instance, so celebrated for their virtues, are of the number ; and the way in which they are elaborated in such vast quantities, seems to be simply as follows :—They all rise in the Lias—a formation abounding in sulphate of iron, lime, magnesia, lignite, and various bituminous matters ; but they have their origin far beneath, in the saliferous marls of the New Red Sandstone which the Lias overlies. In the inferior formation, they are simply brine springs ; but brine is a powerful solvent—passing through the Lias, it acts upon the sulphur and the iron ; becomes, by means of the acid thus set free and incorporated with it, a more powerful solvent still ; operates upon the lime, upon the magnesia, upon the various lignites and bitumens ; and at length rises to the surface, a brine-digested extract of Liasic minerals. The several springs yield various analyses, according to the various rocks of the upper formation which they pass through—some containing more, some less lime, sulphur, iron, magnesia ; but in all, the dissolving menstrum is the same. And such, it would appear, is the mode in which nature prepares her simples in this rich district, and keeps her medicine chest ever full.

Let us trace the progress of a single pint of the water thus elaborated, from where it first alights on the spongy soil in a wintery shower, till where it sparkles in the glass in the Pump-room at Cheltenham. It falls among the flat hills that sweep around the ancient city of Worcester, and straightway buries itself, all fresh and soft, in the folds of the Upper New Red Sandstone, where they incline gently to the east. It percolates, in its downward progress, along one of the unworkable seams of rock salt that occur in the superior marls of the formation ; and as it pursues, furlong after furlong, its subterranean journey, savours more and more strongly of the company it keeps ; becomes in succession hard, brackish, saline, briny ; and then, many fathoms below the level at which it had entered, escapes from the saliferous stratum, through a transverse fissure, into an inferior Liasic bed. And here it trickles, for many hundred yards, through a pyritiferous shale, on which its biting salts act so powerfully, that it becomes strongly tintured by the iron

oxide, and acidulated by the sulphur. And now it forces its upward way through the minute crevices of a dolomitic limestone, which its salts and acids serves partially to decompose; so that to its salt, iron, and sulphur, it now adds its lime and its magnesia. And now it flows through beds of organic remains, animal and vegetable,—now through a stratum of belemnites, and now a layer of fish,—now beside a seam of lignite, and now along a vein of bitumen. Here it carries with it a dilute infusion of what had been once the muscular tissue of a crocodile, and here the strainings of the bones of an ichthyosaurus. And now it comes gushing to the light in an upper Liassic stratum, considerably higher in the geologic scale than the saliferous sandstones into which it had at first sunk, but considerably lower with reference to the existing levels. And now take it and drink it off at once, without pause or breathing space: it is not palatable, but never did apothecary mix up a more curiously compounded draught; and it is as salutary as it is elaborate, as the statement annexed will fully demonstrate.

*Medical Analysis.*—By *F. A. Abel and Thomas H. Rowney*,  
of the *Royal College of Chemistry, London.*

**SULPHURETTED SALINE WATER.—No. 1.**

Temperature of the Water, 57,2° F.; Temperature of the Air at the time of observation, 71,6° F.; Reaction of Water distinctly Alkaline; Acetate of Lead Paper blackened; Taste Saline; Smell of Sulphuretted Hydrogen; Specific Gravity, 1,0064 at 60° F.

Grains in an Imperial Gallon.		Grains in an Imperial Gallon.	
Sulphate of Soda - - -	2,340,562	Carbonate of Iron - - -	05,999
Chloride of Sodium - - -	2,297,876	Phosphate of Lime - - -	Traces.
Chloride of Magnesium - -	526,197	Phosphate of Iron - - -	01,834
Chloride of Calcium - - -	92,575	Silicic Acid - - - - -	10,129
Bromide of Calcium - - -	20,272	Organic { Crenic Acid - -	168,245
Iodide of Calcium - - -	Traces.	Matter { Extractive Matter	00,231
Carbonate of Magnesia - -	19,719		
Carbonate of Lime - - -	220,808		
			<hr/> 5,704,447

Amount of Residue obtained by direct experiment, 5,722,451.—Free Carbonic Acid in the Water at 57,2° F.; 32,705 Cubic Inches in an Imperial Gallon.—Sulphuretted Hydrogen not present in estimable quantities.

**STRONG SALINE WATER.—No. 4.**

Temperature of the Water, 57,2° F.; Temperature of the Air at the time of Observation, 71,6° F.; Reaction of the Water slightly Alkaline; Taste Saline; Smell, slight of Sulphuretted Hydrogen; Specific Gravity, 1,00795, at 60° F.

	Grains in an Imperial Gallon.		Grains in an Imperial Gallon.
Sulphate of Potassa - - -	Traces.	Carbonate of Lime - - -	170,611
Sulphate of Soda - - -	949,410	Phosphate of Lime - - -	Traces.
Chloride of Sodium - - -	5,903,310	Silicic Acid - - -	27,468
Chloride of Magnesium - -	80,003	Organic } Crenic Acid - -	93,332
Bromide of Magnesium - -	30,632	Matter } Extractive Matter	180,530
Iodide of Magnesium - -	04,361		
Carbonate of Magnesia - -	68,026		7,417,683

Amount of Solid Matter found by direct experiment, 7,417,774.—Free Carbonic Acid in the Water at 57,2° F., 25,294 Cubic Inches in an Imperial Gallon.—Sulphuretted Hydrogen—a trace.

The Old Well grounds and gardens were, until set apart for building purposes, seven acres in extent; and the principal walk, with its ancient avenue of elms, is nearly a quarter of a mile in length. Independent of the scientific analysis of this establishment, S. Moreau, Esq., the first Master of the Ceremonies, who received King George III., when on his visit to Cheltenham, has thus recorded his opinion of the waters of the Royal Old Well:—"All that I have now to add on this subject is, that notwithstanding the great virtue of this water, it would be the highest presumption to advance that it is infallible in its operation and effect, yet so indubitable are its powers, that during the sixteen years I have attended this place, I have seen above 14,000 persons resort to it for different complaints. I have known but very few who did not reap benefit from the use of it, and they who have steadiness to persevere, will, I have no doubt, be persuaded of the truth of what I am now asserting." The visitors to this Spa have also the sweet strains of music to aid them in acquiring a cheerful spirit, which is known to be so desirable for the invalid. Musical Promenades are held during the water-drinking season.

Intimately connected with the history of this establishment, is the career of Hannah Forty. She was for upwards of forty years pumper, and waited upon George the Third during his visit, who had her portrait taken before he left the town. She was so popular, that at her decease a subscription was set on foot by the visitors to the Spa, and a marble monument erected near the pulpit in the parish church, on which occurs the inscription quoted below. "For many years, this well was known as 'Mrs. Forty's well,' the venerable old lady having personally officiated at the salutary fountain, and such celebrity

had she acquired by her courteous demeanour, that her name was familiar in every quarter of the globe." (*Weller*).

"In a grave, beneath the yew-tree in this churchyard, are deposited the remains of Hannah Forty, (wife of William Forty, of this town, gardener), who died on the 9th August, 1816. Her maiden name was Knight. She was appointed Pumper at the Old Wells, in this town, on the 12th, Sept., 1772, and continued in that situation until the 1st July, 1816, discharging for nearly 43 years the duties of her office, with credit to herself and with satisfaction to the many visitors who, during that long period, resorted to the original springs, a few of them to whom, for several seasons, she had dispensed the blessings of health, have felt a satisfaction in erecting this memorial to her long and meritorious services."

#### THE CENTENARY FÊTE.

On the 8th of August, 1838, one of the most magnificent provincial fêtes on record, in commemoration of the Centenary of the Royal Old Wells, took place at this establishment. A number of residents were chosen at a public meeting, and constituted "The Centenary Committee," to whom were entrusted the arrangements, and ample funds were subscribed and placed at their disposal. In the morning a public breakfast was held. In the afternoon an oak was planted in the centre of the orchard, and named "The Royal Victoria Oak." In the evening the fete commenced. When the shades of night had thickened, the whole scene was enchanting; the avenue of trees was illuminated with thousands of lights, forming innumerable arches of gold and green, in the manner of a cathedral nave, the sweet strains of music poured forth; the commingling of all ages, of rank, fashion, beauty and fortune, in dense masses, revived the remembrance of Grecian festivals, in which the refinements of life alone were to be seen, and where the cares and distinctions of the world were for a while forgotten. The entertainments were varied, and concluded with a clever pyrotechnical representation of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. After this memorable fete, a number of gentlemen were appointed as a deputation from the town to present to her Majesty the Queen, a gold medal, commemorative of the event. The medal, as a work of art, was an exquisite specimen of working in gold. On

the obverse side of the medal there was a representation of the Royal Old Well Walk, and on the reverse side was the following inscription:—"To commemorate the Centenary of the Royal Old Wells, Cheltenham, established August, 1738." The deputation were presented to her Majesty at her levee, held at St. James's Palace, April 17, 1839, by Earl Fitzhardinge, and most graciously received. After the presentation of a suitable address, and of the medal, each member of the deputation had the honour of kissing her Majesty's hand. On the return of the deputation, they were met at Andoversford by the Centenary Committee, and escorted to the Plough Hotel, where a dinner was given to them.

#### THE ROYAL WELL MUSIC HALL.

The Royal Old Wells was altered by the present proprietor, Mr. S. Onley, jun., in 1848, when all the old buildings, including the Pump-room, were taken down, and the noble classic structure which now ornaments the grounds reared in its stead, the proprietor being his own architect. The new Pump-room has been called "The Royal Wells Music Hall," for, besides affording accommodation to the Spa visitors, it has been used as a Concert-room, and many crowded and fashionable auditories have assembled within it. The first artistes in Europe, both vocal and instrumental, who have performed in the Hall, have publicly by testimonial given a favourable opinion of the acoustic qualities of the building, and of its adaptation for music meetings. The Music-hall is of the Corinthian order of architecture. The exterior was ornamented with a portico 40 feet high, supported by four columns. On either side of the entrance are two immense windows of plate glass, the largest of their kind in the locality. The interior presents architectural and artistic details of a high character. Eight chastely executed fluted Corinthian columns, 35 feet high, support the classic roof. The dimensions of this magnificent room are 82 feet by 55 feet, and on public occasions the conservatory, which opens en suite on the right, is used, which is 35 feet by 18 feet wide, and also a raised stage at the opposite end, 40 feet by 24 feet. A painting in the room deserves particular notice; it is on the stage, and forms a drop scene, which was painted by C. Marshall, Esq., of her Majesty's Theatre, and stands unrivalled as a specimen of the scenic art.

It represents the Lake of Como, with its classic ruins and ever verdant environs. At the opposite end of the room, where the waters are dispensed, is a conservatory.

#### MONTPELLIER SPA.

In 1801, the site of the Montpellier estate, which was originally farm land, was purchased by H. Thompson, Esq. The presence of mineral waters in the soil led to the establishment of a Spa and Salts Manufactory. The present Vittoria House, the residence of the late C. Shaw, Esq., was erected by Mr. Thompson for the purposes of a Spa, and the waters were conveyed there by means of pipes. "But finding the visitors preferred drinking them nearer to their source, he was induced to erect a room immediately over the wells." The Montpellier Pump Room was opened for the reception of company in 1809, but not being large enough for the increased number of visitors, the present Pump-room was erected, and, in 1826, Pearson Thompson, Esq., the son of the first proprietor, added the Rotunda, whose classic dome is so conspicuous an object. The exterior of the building is ornamented by a light and spacious portico, presenting a row of twelve pillars, ranged in due proportion to the size of the windows, of which there are eight in front, with the principal entrance door in the centre. The dome, even externally, gives the edifice a majestic finish. The original room, which is long, abuts the entrances, and is a spacious apartment, ornamented with wall devices representing Eastern scenery. The Rotunda communicates with this room by large folding doors. This is, in fact, the Pump Room. It is 52 feet in diameter; its dome rises to the height of 54 feet. The dome is supported by sixteen pilasters, ornamented with Grecian capitals, the concave finished with sunk pannels, supporting on the top a lantern, composed of sixteen glazed compartments, the curb of which is ornamented with pateras, and the covering with a flower six feet in diameter. In front of the entrance is the pump, standing on a handsome marble counter, and surmounted by a beautiful model of the celebrated Warwick vase. This neat and classic structure was designed by J. B. Papworth, Esq. The far famed "Swedish Nightingale," Jenny Lind, gave a concert in this Rotunda during her visit to Cheltenham, in 1848. In front of the Spa is a spacious garden, tastefully laid

out with walks and plantations. This has been designated the Montpellier Garden, and forms a promenade for the use of those who frequent the Spa. The Montpellier Gardens were opened by a public fete, on July 28, 1830. The Montpellier Spa, Gardens, and Estate, in 1852, passed under the management of Mr. C. F. Wickes, for many years the lessee of Pittville.

## ANALYSIS OF THE WATERS OF MONTPELLIER SPA.

## No. 2.—Ioduretted and Sulphuretted Saline.

Gaseous contents in a pint :	cub. in.
Sulphuretted Hydrogen . . . . .	1.6
Carbonic Acid . . . . .	.4
Saline Contents :	Grains.
Muriate of Soda . . . . .	35.3
Sulphate of Soda . . . . .	28.4
——— of Magnesia . . . . .	7.2
——— of Lime . . . . .	3.1
Oxide of Iron . . . . .	.42
Hydriodate of Soda . . . . .	.15
Specific Gravity, 1.008.	<hr/> 74.57

## No. 4.—Pure Saline.

Gaseous contents in a pint :	cub. in.
Carbonic Acid . . . . .	1.4
Saline contents :	Grains.
Muriate of Soda . . . . .	52.4
Sulphate of Magnesia . . . . .	14.2
——— of Soda . . . . .	17.2
Bi-Carbonate of Soda . . . . .	1.2
Sulphate of Lime . . . . .	2.7
Carbonate of Lime and Carbonate of Magnesia . . . . .	1.1
Hydriodate of Soda & Hydrobromate of Soda—a trace	<hr/>
Specific Gravity, 1.009	88.8

## No. 4, "A."—Strong Ioduretted Saline.

Gaseous Contents in a Pint :	cub. in.
Carbonic Acid . . . . .	1.6
Sulphuretted Hydrogen—a trace	
Saline Contents :	Grains.
Muriate of Soda . . . . .	51.4
——— of Lime . . . . .	8.3
——— of Magnesia . . . . .	7.5
Sulphate of Soda . . . . .	14.0
——— of Magnesia . . . . .	17.1
——— of Lime . . . . .	2.1
Bi-Carbonate of Soda . . . . .	2.4
Carbonate of Lime and Carbonate of Magnesia . . . . .	3.2
Hydriodate of Soda . . . . .	.25
Specific Gravity, 1.0101	<hr/> 106.25







*St. James's Church, Cheltenham.*

## No. 5.—Ioduretted Magnesian Saline.

Gaseous Contents in a Pint :		cu. in.
Carbonic Acid . . . . .		1.2
Saline Contents :		Grains.
Sulphate of Magnesia . . . . .		47.0
— of Lime . . . . .		3.1
Muriate of Magnesia . . . . .		10.5
— of Lime . . . . .		13.1
— of Soda . . . . .		9.7
Bi-Carbonate of Soda . . . . .		1.7
Oxide of Iron . . . . .		.4
Hydriodate of Soda, with a small quantity of Hydrobromate of Soda . . . . .		.35
Specific Gravity, 1,009		85.85

## NAPOLEON'S FOUNTAIN.

The Montpellier Garden has for some years past been the depository of a work of art, interesting from its historical associations. This is a marble fountain of graceful form and beautiful workmanship. Its locality is the upper end of the gardens, in the centre of a verdant and evergreen lawn, and when in full play it produces an effect upon the beholder pleasing in the extreme. The design of the fountain is a child, whose features express the period of infancy, fondly clasping the neck of a swan, from whose mouth the water issues, as also from a circle of cherub heads below. This gem of art is a specimen of the artistic taste of Napoleon Bonaparte, having been designed by the great warrior in his palmy days, when all Europe trembled at his power. This, and several other works, were entrusted to an artist of note in Italy for execution. During the memorable French wars, they were on their way to the Emperor at Paris, when they were captured by a privateer belonging to the port of Bristol. The fountain, which has long been located in these gardens, was allotted to one of the sailors in the general division of the spoil, and of him was purchased by the late T. Henney, Esq., J.P., and Mr. Harward, who have permitted it to occupy its present position. The original idea of the designer has been marred by the substitution of the beaked head of an eagle for that of a swan—the latter having been broken off by accident. At the period the Sherborne Spa occupied the site of the Queen's Hotel, this relic of Napoleon was placed in a classic building which termi-

nated the broad walk on the east. We trust that some future historian will have to record its removal to some public and conspicuous part of the town. We present an illustration of this beautiful work of an artist of Genoa, taken for the late T. Henney, Esq., when in its pristine state. From letters which were found in the vessel at the time of its capture, it would appear that Napoleon was the sole designer.

The Montpellier Gardens are also celebrated as being the place where the Pavilion was erected which was used at the Eglington Tournament. The name of the Earl of Eglington will always be associated with the gorgeous pageant he held in August, 1839, at his castle in Ayrshire, at which the present Emperor of France was one of the knights, and at which the Duchess of Somerset, then Lady Seymour, had the distinction to take the part of the "Queen of Beauty." The Pavilion was purchased by the proprietor of these gardens, and when in its pristine state was a most attractive object. These gardens are upwards of eight acres in extent, and in 1861 they were purchased by a joint stock company, consisting of noblemen and gentlemen interested in the welfare of the town. The objects for which this company is established are, amongst others, "To lay out and maintain the Montpellier Gardens as a place for public amusement, recreation, and resort. To erect thereon a hall for musical and other purposes, and for public assemblies and entertainments, with convenient ante-rooms, museum, hot-houses, conservatories, tennis and racket courts, Turkish and other baths, and other necessary or convenient offices and buildings."

The Montpellier Promenade, which leads to the Rotunda, is remarkable from the novel style of architecture displayed in the fronts of the houses. This arises from the use of stone statues instead of pillars, which produce a striking effect. These represent female figures clothed in long garments, and called by the Greeks, Caryatides. The figures, which extend the whole length of the Promenade, are well-executed and rest upon pedestals. The origin of the introduction of these elegant figures into architecture is thus explained by Vitruvius:—"The inhabitants of Carya, a city of Peloponesus, having joined with the Persians against the Grecian States, and the Greeks having terminated the war with glorious victory, with one con-

sent commenced hostilities against the Caryatides. They took the city, destroyed it, put all the males to the sword, and carried the females into captivity, and to treat them with still greater ignominy, forbade them to divest themselves of their robes, or of any of their ornaments, so that they might not only be once led in triumph, but, in a manner, suffer the same mortification all their lives, by constantly appearing in the same dress as on the triumphal day. And further, as an everlasting testimony of the crime of the people of Carya, the architects of that time employed the representation of these women to support the entablature of the public buildings. One of the porticos of the Erechtheum, at Athens, is supported by Caryatides of the same size as those which now ornament our town.

## PITTVILLE SPA.

This Spa has been pronounced the most beautiful and extensive establishment of its kind in Europe. Its first construction and the laying out of its drives, six miles in extent, cost half a million sterling. In 1824, the many walks and drives which now constitute the Pittville estate were first laid out by Joseph Pitt, Esq., M.P. Pittville Pump-Room was designed by a resident architect, Mr. J. Forbes. The foundation stone was laid with full Masonic honours, on May 4, 1825, and the ceremony was witnessed by an immense concourse of spectators; the Masonic procession on the occasion was an imposing spectacle. Divine service was celebrated in the Parish Church by the Rev. J. Edwards, vicar of Prestbury; the sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Portis, the Masonic Grand Chaplain of Somerset. At the conclusion of Divine Service, the procession proceeded from the church, passing up the High-street, through Winchcomb-street, to Pittville, where every accommodation had been made for the reception of visitors to view the ceremony, by the erection of two extensive elevations, commanding excellent views of the imposing scene. The ceremony was commenced by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master expressing to Mr. Forbes, the architect, his high approbation of the design and ground plan, which was then exhibited to the spectators and received with universal acclamation. Several coins were

placed in the cavity, which was covered by a silver plate bearing the following inscription:—

“In the Reign of His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Fourth, when Cheltenham, in consequence of its celebrated Mineral Waters had, during half a century preceding, increased from an inconsiderable village to a town containing a population of upwards of 20,000 souls; and from its continued prosperity justified the most sanguine expectations, that its importance would still advance in an unprecedented degree, the First Stone of this Edifice, the PITTVILLE PUMP-ROOM, the Property of Joseph Pitt, Esq., M.P., and a principal feature in the projected Buildings at Pittville, over one hundred acres of Land, a part of the Estate there belonging to that gentleman, was laid by Thomas Quarrington, Esq., Deputy-Grand Master of the Province of Gloucestershire, acting by delegation from the Most Noble Henry Charles Somerset, Duke of Beaufort, K.G., Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, in and over that Province, on the 4th day of May, in the year of our Lord, 1826, and the Era of Masonry, 5826; Mr. John Forbes, of Cheltenham, being the Architect.—May the undertaking promote the general prosperity of the Town of Cheltenham.”

The stone was then slowly lowered, amidst the most enthusiastic cheers, the band playing “God save the King.”

The building occupied five years in its erection. It was completed in 1830, and opened July 20, by a public breakfast, attended by the leading families of the county. Pittville Spa is in style purely Grecian, varied and embellished only according to the taste and genius of the architect. The Ionic order has been selected for decoration; and the subject chosen for imitation is the Temple of Ilyssus, at Athens. The body of the building, which is 90 feet in length and 43 in breadth, is surrounded by a colonnade of 20 feet wide, the roof supported by fluted columns of 22 feet in length, and with capitals richly ornamented. In the middle of this roof, and over the principal entrance, a figure of Hygeia is placed; and the two wings, ornamented with those of Æsculapius and Hippocrates respectively, produce a fine effect. The main building bears an elegant superstructure, of corresponding character and ornament, consisting of a room at each end, presenting externally three windows each, the intermediate space being faced with ornaments and pilasters. In the centre of the building is an elegant dome, raised to the height of 70 feet, around which and enclosed by neat iron-work, is a gallery, from which is presented to the eye a panoramic view of the surrounding vale, bounded by the Malvern and Cotswold hills, and extending on

the south-west to the mountains of Wales, as represented in our engraving. The staircase, leading to the upper room, and also to the gallery, ascends from a vestibule at the back of the building, the entrance to which is from the north-west end of the colonnade. The style and arrangement of this magnificent design differs from the exterior only as it surpasses it in variety of embellishment and richness of decoration, so as at least to equal any expectation which a survey of its bold and splendid exterior may inspire. On each side of the principal entrance are two columns and pilasters, separated by large windows of 11 feet in height, to correspond with four others on the opposite side of the room, whose intercolumniations are open; behind these are three windows, in front of which the pump is placed, decorated by a marble tripod, after a model from Rocchigiani's "*Monumenti Artichi*." The whole produces a very striking effect, when seen from the promenades, on approaching the principal entrance. At each end of the building there is an entrance with columns and pilasters, detached in a manner similar to those in the principal front. The walls within are ornamented with columns and pilasters, relieved by niches and recesses, breaking in pleasing outlines. The ceiling at each end of the room is arched with a flat sweep, and ornamented with bands and double sunk panels, enriched with foliage, the centre of the building being a square space opening to the dome. This space is lighted from behind and in front by windows beneath the dome, the interior of which springs with enriched sunk spandrills and segmental soffits, and finishes with tapering panels and appropriate decorations, the top of the dome being completed by a sky-light.

The Anniversary of the Centenary Fete was celebrated at this Spa on August 12, 1840, on a scale of magnificence that will be long remembered. The most remarkable feature in the Fete was the erection of the Temple of Hygeia, which floated on the beautiful lake, and displayed the skill of the artist to advantage. It was covered with thousands of variegated lamps, and was divided into three compartments. In the first, under the figures A. D. 1733, was a transparency representing Cheltenham as it was in that year. There were the rivulet and the stepping-stones, which then formed the only contrivance by which to cross from one side of the High-street to the other, and a

picture of the celebrated Plough Hotel, copied from an original painting. In the compartment on the other side, under the figures A.D. 1840, was a representation of the High-street of that day.

Pittville Spa, from its first opening, has maintained an almost national celebrity. This is evident from the large amount which in past years has been received for admission from visitors only, independent of the subscriptions from residents.

The following account of a visit to Pittville Spa, is extracted from a work entitled "Letters on Cheltenham:"—"We passed to the grounds, picturesquely planted, embracing no less than 120 acres of land, laid out in walks and drives, which at every turn presented some new object of interest or attraction. What a perfect scene of faërie-land broke upon our view as we stood upon the margin of the Pittville Lake, formed by the waters of the Swilgate, which, as its name implies, flows like molten silver hence to Tewkesbury. On either side of us, forming a classical termination to the lake, was an elegant stone bridge of fanciful architecture, over which these gardens are approached from the town. Looking along the centre avenue, the colossal pile, with its multitude of columns, broken into every variety of light and shade by the reflection of the passing clouds, or standing out in the brilliancy of sunlight, as they cleared away, gave dignity to the scene; whilst the luxuriant plantations, glittering like gold at one instant, or sinking into deep shade at the next, from the same cause, were formed into every variety of picture by the continual change of colour, as the gay groups of sylph-like forms flitted across in all the tints that taste and fashion can devise. Few, very few, towns can boast of such attractive gardens, already taking rank with some of the finest in the kingdom. Altogether, it has been told me, that little less than half a million of money has been expended upon this Pittville property."

At the Pittville Spa, "Sulphuretted Hydrogen," says Dr. Gibney, "is found in considerable quantity, and if care is taken to prevent its escape, we shall then have a water similar to that of Harrowgate. As the purgative operations of the Pittville Spas are precisely similar to those of the other wells, its great supply of sulphuretted hydrogen will render it very efficacious

in diseases of the skin and other disorders, for which Harrogate has been recommended."

Attached to the establishment is the Cosmorama, which contains views of Rome, Amiens, Bielstein, Antwerp, Mount St. Bernard, and other places.

The annexed sketch represents Essex Lodge, so named in memory of the Earl of Essex, who was formerly Lay Rector of Cheltenham, and consequently owner of the glebe land on which the Pittville estate is built. It is used as a Spa for the convenience of those who cannot extend their walks to the pump-room, and was in operation during the period the beautiful edifice beyond was in course of erection. It is romantically situate at one of the angles which leads to the main drive to the lake and to the upper pleasure grounds.

Analysis of the waters at Pittville Spa, by F. A. Abel, and T. H. Rowney, of the Royal College of Chemistry:—Depth of the Main Well about 90 feet; temperature of the water, 57° F.; temperature of the air at the time of observation 67° F. Reaction with Litmus Alkaline. Taste of the water, agreeably saline smell, slight of Sulphurated Hydrogen. Specific gravity, 1.00763, at 60° F.

	Grains in Imp. Gallon.
Sulphate of Potassa . . . . .	2,9512
Sulphate of Soda . . . . .	112,8666
Chloride of Sodium . . . . .	481,1933
Bromide of Sodium . . . . .	3,2928
Iodide of Sodium . . . . .	traces.
Carbonate of Soda . . . . .	20,1481
Carbonate of Lime . . . . .	7,7021
Carbonate of Magnesia . . . . .	11,3897
Phosphate of Lime . . . . .	traces.
Silicid Acid . . . . .	2,7755
Organic { Crenic Acid . . . . .	0,3591
Matter { Extractive . . . . .	3,5993
	<hr/>
	646,1777
Amount of fixed residue found by direct experiment	645,6053

Free Carbonic Acid in the water at 50° F. 16,254 cubic inches in imperial gallon. Sulphuretted Hydrogen present in inestimable qualities

#### CAMBRAY SPA.

Cambray Spa is justly celebrated for its chalybeate waters, possessing peculiar and distinct medicinal properties, as may be seen on reference to the official analysis by the eminent chemists,



Faraday and Accum. It is an exquisite specimen, on a small scale, of the ornamental Gothic style, and its octagon form, and situation on the south side of Rodney-terrace, at the junction of various main roads, serves as an ornament to the locality. It was erected by the proprietor, Baynham Jones, Esq., who also owned the original Chalybeate Spa. This was situate but a short distance from the present pump-room, where the waters were for many years dispensed. The Cambray Chalybeate Springs were first discovered in 1804. Ruff, in his "Beauties of Cheltenham," speaking of the Cambray Spa Waters, says—"We cannot give a stronger proof of their efficacy, than by noticing the rapid restoration of Sir Francis Burdett, Bart., who came to Cheltenham in May, 1805, very seriously ill, and deprived of the use of his limbs. The worthy baronet was restored in a few days to a state of convalescence; and by persevering in drinking the waters, and bathing the parts affected, left Cheltenham in the month of September, in perfect health."

Analysis of the Cambray Spa, (the Aperient Saline,) by Michael Faraday, Esq., F.R.S., &c., in a wine imperial pint. Specific gravity, 1006.7.—Salts in a dry state.

	Grains.
Muriate of Soda . . . . .	51.06
Muriate of Lime . . . . .	8.60
Muriate of Magnesia . . . . .	a trace.
Sulphate of Soda . . . . .	17.04
Carbonate of Lime . . . . .	0.80
Carbonate of Iron . . . . .	a mere trace.
	<hr/>
	77.50

Carbonated Chalybeate, by Frederick Accum, Esq., F.L.S., &c., in a wine gallon. Specific gravity, 1.0011.

	Grains.
Carbonate of Iron . . . . .	7.05
Muriates of Lime and Magnesia . . . . .	15.50
Muriate and Sulphate of Soda . . . . .	24.00
Sulphate of Lime . . . . .	9.00
Carbonate of Magnesia and Lime . . . . .	8.95
	<hr/>
	64.50

Carbonic Acid Gas 24 Cubic Inches.

#### THE PARK SPA.

A spring producing an abundant supply of pure Saline water having been found to exist on the Park estate, at a depth of

about 50 feet, possessing all the properties of the old well-known No. 4 of the established Spas, Mr. Billings, the proprietor, has tested its efficacy by obtaining from Messrs. Heathfield and Burgess, of London, the subjoined analysis: it proves the water to be equal in strength to any yet found in Cheltenham.

A small classic pump-room has recently been erected over the well sunk by Samuel Bendall, the forty years' experienced well-sinker and pumper of the Montpellier Spa, and under the recommendation of eminent members of the faculty, the waters have for some time been administered to the public in their purity and proved to be extremely efficacious.

Analysis of the Park Spa Waters, by Messrs. Heathfield and Burgess.

	Imp. Gallon.
	Grains.
Sulphate of Soda . . . . .	77.00
Sulphate of Lime . . . . .	86.00
Sulphate of Magnesia . . . . .	66.00
Chloride of Sodium . . . . .	602.00
*Carbonate of Lime . . . . .	20.00
Carbonate of Magnesia . . . . .	8.00
*Oxide of Iron . . . . .	.30
Carbonate of Soda . . . . .	a trace.
Organic matter, waste, &c. . . . .	.70
	<hr/>
	860.00

\* These Substances are held in solution by free Carbonic Acid.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### The Endowed Charities.

ENGLAND, as a country, is justly celebrated both for the number and extent of its publicly-endowed charities. This spirit of national benevolence has been imbibed by some of the more ancient residents of wealth and influence in this locality. Hence Cheltenham can claim a place in the list of publicly-endowed towns, and can boast of benefactors distinguished in their day

both for their piety, learning, and exalted rank. In consequence of the increase in value of landed property in the locality, bequests, the income of which is derivable from land or houses, have enhanced greatly in value. The bequests from which the inhabitants are now deriving advantage, were left in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth, Charles I. and II., Queen Anne, George I. and III. We have the satisfaction of recording in this work, the whole of these public charities, and trust that it may be the means, in some cases, of perpetuating their existence. According to priority of date, each bequest is here presented to the reader in consecutive order. The name of the founder, the object of the charity, the nature of the endowment, and the present annual income, will be found fully detailed. Annexed to the description of each charity are verbatim extracts from the donor's will, terriers of estates, and other authentic documents.

#### PATE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The town of Cheltenham has an endowed Grammar School, founded in 1578 by Richard Pates, Esq., in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The property left to support the charity in the lifetime of the founder, realized but £70 a year. It is now worth £1,000 and upwards annually, and being landed property let out on lease, at the expiration of the term, it reverts to the charity, and is consequently re-let at the current value, which gradually increases the income. The Charity Estate comprises some of the most valuable portions of the town, besides houses in Gloucester, land at Swindon, and a farm at the Leigh. From a survey of the estate made in 1849, on the part of the parish, by Messrs. D. J. Humphris, and E. E. Newman, surveyors, it appears from their report that the "annual income, at the expiration of the present leases will be £2,933 5s., and the estimated value in fee, £38,093." Three-fourths of the annual income go to the support of the Grammar School and Alms-house, and the residue for the establishment of a Divinity Lecture at Corpus Christi College, Oxford; the President of that College and the seven senior scholars are the trustees of the charity. Mr. Pates commenced the Grammar School in his life-time, and lived to watch its progress for seventeen years. By this means he was enabled to draw up an account of its future expenditures,

and found his grant thereon. According to an entry on the Rolls at the Manor Office, the foundation-stone of the school-room was laid on April 28, 1571. In 1585, the indenture was executed, and in 1587, possession of the property was given up to the trustees. For a long period after the first establishment, from the favourable notices which occur respecting the masters, it is evident that the school was a useful institution. But, like similar charities, in more recent times it fell into decay. From the Chancery Reports, it appears that, for many years, the number of scholars on the foundation was scarcely more than twenty. By the cordial co-operation of the present trustees, with the committee who represent the parish, this school has now become an honour to the town. Like Birmingham, Shrewsbury, and other places where Grammar Schools are ably conducted, Cheltenham has now begun to reap benefit, and the increased and increasing income of the charity will afford ample opportunity for establishing the Grammar School on a basis equal to any provincial one in England. A scheme having been approved by the Court of Chancery, and the premises adjoining the original school-room obtained, the trustees proceeded to the election of a head-master. The choice rested upon E. R. Humphreys, Esq., M.A., LL.D., and H. M. Jeffrey, Esq., M.A., of St. Catherine's Hall, Cambridge, as second-master on the foundation. The school was publicly re-opened on May 1, 1852, on which occasion addresses were delivered by Dr. Norris, President of Corpus Christi College, the principal trustee, Rev. F. Close, Dr. Humphreys, and R. S. Lingwood, Esq. Nearly two hundred scholars were on the foundation the first half-year after the re-opening, and applications for further admission were made, which could not be met for want of school-room. To meet the exigency, an additional school-room was erected at the rear of the premises, sufficient to accommodate one hundred and fifty additional scholars. Premises adjoining, known as "Yearsley's Boarding-house," were also purchased, which, while it extends the accommodation for scholars, also affords a residence for the head-master.

The Rev. H. Hayman was the next appointed head-master. He was one of the preachers in the Temple, and Head-Master of St. Olave's School, London. Since his settlement the scholars have attained classical and academic distinctions to a degree that

reflects credit to the town at large. A majority of the successful candidates belonged to this school at the Middle-Class Examinations in 1860. About the same time three candidates that were sent to Oxford for the examination of those not members of the university, obtained the title of A.A., two of them winning honours. The reports at the annual gathering, according to ancient custom, in 1862, shows a most remarkable amount of proficiency, and perhaps no school, considering the short time that it has been renovated, can boast of so many honours having been obtained by its scholars. These facts demonstrate that the benevolent bequest of Mr. Pates will once again contribute to the present and future prosperity of this highly favoured educational town. This old academy can boast of having had masters in the early period of its history, who were alike eminent for their learning and benevolence. Christopher Bayley, M.A., who died in 1654, was master for thirty-two years, and bequeathed a sum of money for erecting a Marketplace, which stood opposite the present Plough Hotel. Another eminent master was William Rogers, M.A., of the ancient family of that name at Dowdeswell. For thirteen years this excellent man filled his office until his decease, in 1701, and received the thanks of the trustees for his services. He is described on the Manor Rolls as "a good man and excellent scholar." Both these disinterested persons are interred in the Parish Church, where monuments exist to their memory.

The value of this academy to the locality is greatly enhanced by scholarships and exhibitions connected with it, as follows:—Townsend Fellowship, tenable for four years, to Pembroke College, Oxford, £50 annually: Classical Scholarship of £20 annually, for two years: Berkeley Scholarship, founded by Earl Fitzhardinge, £10 annually: Bedford Scholarship, founded by Earl Russell, £10 annually, for two years: Civil Service Scholarship of £10 annually, and Commercial Scholarship of £10 annually.

"Mr. W. H. Corfield, a pupil at the Cheltenham Grammar School, has just been elected to a open demyship in natural philosophy, of about £70 per annum, at Magdalene College, a scholarship examination being also included. This may be regarded as one of the first fruits of the department of physical science, in this school, as re-organized under the present Head-Master, the Rev. H. Hayman. The success is peculiarly gratifying, inasmuch as

Mr. Corfield is a full year younger than the usual age of competition, and the examination extended over a period of five days.”—(*Cheltenham Examiner*, March 13, 1861.)

The value of these scholarships in drawing out native talent, will be best seen on reference to the Townsend Fellowship, hereafter detailed.

The following distinctions were gained by pupils in this school, between March, 1860, and Easter, 1861:—The Senior Mathematical Scholarship in the University of Oxford; an Open Fellowship, Merton College, Oxford; a Second Class in Law and History, ditto, ditto; the fourth place of the year on the Classical Tripos, University of London; Townsend Scholarship, Pembroke College, Oxford; Open Demyship in Magdalen College, ditto (chiefly by Physical Sciences); Gentleman Cadetship (chiefly by Mathematics), this boy has since come out at Addiscombe for Woolwich, second of his year, with prize for Chemistry; title of A.A., Oxford, with first-class honours, and the Local Committee's Prize; four similar titles, with second-class honours, and all accompanied with the Local Committee's Prize; three Oxford Junior Certificates, one receiving the same prize; one Cambridge University Junior Certificate, with Distinction in Latin.

“Mr. Lewis Sergeant—son of Mr. Sergeant of York House—the author of a poem entitled ‘Garibaldi,’ published some months ago, in one of our local contemporaries, last week obtained the first of two Scholarships given at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge. Mr. Sergeant had been a private pupil of Mr. Jeffrey, second foundation master of our Grammar School.” (*Cheltenham Examiner*, June, 1861.)

It is also the only locally endowed school on a royal foundation, and legally belonging to the University of Oxford; on this account the youths attending the school very properly wear the Oxonian Cap. There is a tradition that Queen Elizabeth visited the school, after it had commenced, and was so pleased with the zeal of Mr. Pates, that she gave him the property which now forms the principal part of the endowment. This tradition has been handed down by the family whose ancestor was one of the original trustees. It is not improbable, considering the warm interest her Majesty took in the school, and especially as she passed through the place *en route* during the period.

In 1852, Prince Albert addressed a complimentary letter to the head-master, on the occasion of practical science being added to the other subjects taught. The school was also honoured with a visit from Lord John Russell, who afterwards founded the Bedford Scholarship.

Mr. Pates was a man in humble circumstances of life when young, but being a person possessing great acuteness, he was employed by Edward VI., Henry VIII., and Queen Elizabeth, to survey and let out the land that had been confiscated in this county to the throne, at the dissolution of the monasteries. Mr. Pates, in after life, practised as a lawyer, and was evidently a person of great local influence; a proof of which is the fact that he held the offices of Recorder of Gloucester, Steward of the Manor of Prestbury, and he was also, at five successive severely contested elections, chosen M.P. for the City of Gloucester. From the manner in which his will is worded, it would appear that his early education, which was at Corpus Christi College, was a work of charity, and hence, he says, that it was "in token of his thankful remembrance" of such instruction, that he appointed the president and scholars of the said college his trustees. He founded and endowed several other charitable institutions in this county, besides those which exist in our own town; among the number is the St. Bartholomew Alms-house, Gloucester. Mr. Pates was buried in Gloucester Cathedral, where a handsome monument is erected to his memory, and it has been several times repaired by the President of Corpus Christi College. It is situated in the south aisle, and is supported by columns. Mr. Pates is represented in the garb of a lawyer, in a kneeling position, with a child behind him; Mrs. Pates is represented in a similar attitude, surrounded with three children. He died October 29, 1588, at the age of 73. The inscription on the monument, which is in Latin, was composed by himself, and has been thus translated into English:—"Richard Pates, Esq., late of this city, who lived 73 years, and died October, 1588, erected this monument for himself, wife, and children—

Why do foolish mortals wish for the thread of life  
To be extended? Life, no less wretched than evil.  
Shew me the Man whose Heart is not corroded with care;  
Shew me the Man whose mind is not conscious of wrong,  
In Heaven, life is void of cares, and guiltless of sin.  
This is true life; every other life only kills."

The poet Shenstone, who visited Cheltenham in 1762, pays this tribute to the memory of Mr. Pates, written at the spot of his interment :—

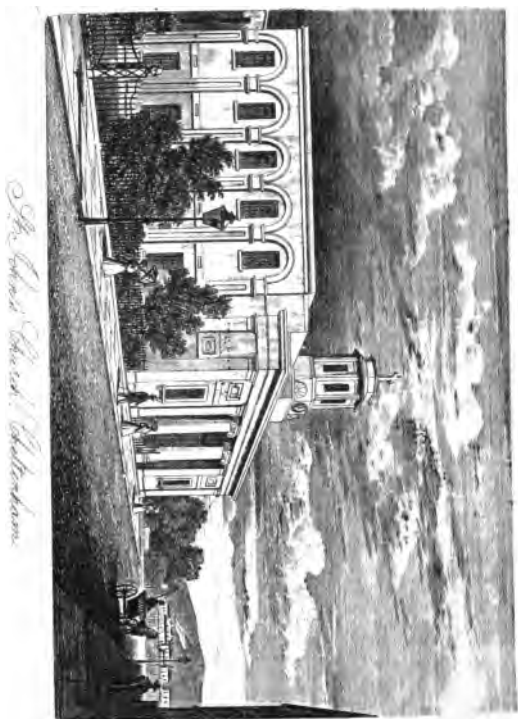
“ Pure Charity, that comes not in a shower,  
Sudden and loud, oppressing what it feeds ;  
But, like the dew, with gradual silent power,  
Felt in the bloom it leaves along the meads.  
The happy grateful spirit, that improves  
And brightens every gift by Fortune given ;  
That wander where it will, with those it loves,  
Makes every place a home, and home a heaven.  
All these were his—oh ! thou who read'st this stone,  
When for thyself, thy children, to the sky.  
Thou humbly prayest, ask this boon alone,  
That ye like him may live, like him may die.”

Richard Pates deserves a public monument in the town which he has so much benefitted. His contemporaries in literature used to adopt water as a simile to show the value of education, and a statue to his memory, blended with a fountain, would combine two objects, which the inhabitants of Cheltenham would be glad to see accomplished.

The age in which the founder lived was a most memorable one, for it was the era of the Reformation. The property which now supports the charity was originally left by our Catholic ancestors for the endowment of local chantries and priories, and at the confiscation became the property of the crown. At the dissolution of these monasteries, the poor were thrown upon their own resources, both for instruction and the relief of their physical wants. Such was the unfortunate condition of this locality (in common with England), at the commencement of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and hence we find that so many schools for the instruction of the children, and alms-houses for the support and refuge of the poor and aged, were generally instituted in that particular reign. This state of things attracted the attention of some philanthropic and influential individuals, and among the number was Richard Pates, Esq., the founder of the Cheltenham Free Grammar School and Alms-houses, a man (as the wording of the will by which he left the endowment fully proves) of the utmost benevolence. A careful perusal of the will of Mr. Pates, which is one of the most clear and definite documents ever penned, proves that the object which he had in view



was the education of the children of the locality. Cheltenham, at the time of the endowment, and the whole of the surrounding hamlets and villages then comprised in the "Cheltenham Hundred," contained little more than 500 inhabitants. In the work of removing the "moral and mental darkness of the age," Pates was assisted by various grants from Elizabeth, "of her royal mind and noble inclination, and of her divine and fervent zeal for the advancement of learning and good literature, and for the sustenance of the poor people." In the Elizabethan era, Latin and Greek were greatly in vogue, so that the teaching of it among the poor was a most desirable object. These were therefore two things appointed by the founder to be taught, and in addition, the elementary rudiments of education, and the sciences and fine arts. Annexed are extracts from the original grant, which will explain the intentions of the donor:— "Whereas our said Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty, by her highness's letters patent, bearing date at Westminster, the seventh day of January, in the sixteenth year of her most gracious reign, being well-pleased to make the said Richard Pate more liable sufficient to perfect and accomplish that good work which he then intended, in the edifying building, and perpetual foundation and maintenance of a Free Grammar School and Hospital in the town of Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, of her royal mind and noble inclination, and of her divine and fervent zeal for the advancement of learning and good literature, and for the sustenance of the poor people there; and of her certain knowledge and mere intention, hath for her, her heirs and successors, given and granted unto the said Richard Pate, his heirs and assigns, all the lands, tenements, or hereditaments hereafter particularly mentioned." Item—"It is ordained that every scholar, at his first admission into the said school, shall pay fourpence, if his parents be inhabiting, or himself lodging in the parish of Cheltenham; and shall pay eightpence if his parents be not dwelling, neither he himself lodging in the said parish; which money the said schoolmaster for the time being shall receive and keep, and the same shall be registered in a book for that purpose, and of the same shall yield and make a perfect account to the visitors of the said school at the several visitations. With which money the said schoolmaster shall buy and provide such Latin and Greek books as shall be most necessary for the public



*St. John's Church, Melbourne*



use of the said scholars, to be tied fast with little chains of iron fixed for that purpose in some convenient place of the said school." "The number of fifty scholars at the least, of which number four at the least shall have knowledge in the Greek and Latin tongues, and be able to make exercises in prose and verse, in those tongues and speak the Latin tongue extempore, and five other of that number able to translate any piece of familiar English speech into Latin, and four other able to make a sentence of true Latin between the nominative case and the verb, and fourteen other able and ready to learn the rules or accidence to the rules of construction, and the residue of that number of good children of good aptness to learn." "Provided always, that both the said school-master and usher do teach the grammar allowed and approved by the common authority of the Queen's Majesty that now is (Elizabeth), and of her highness's heirs or successors, Kings or Queens of this realm of England for the time being." Mr. Pates, in his cautiously-framed will also says, "It is ordained, whensoever the governors of the said school for the time being, shall appoint the day of the yearly visitation of the said school, that the said governors by the private letters of them, or some of them, or otherwise shall give warning thereof to the said schoolmaster for the time being, by the space of four days at the least; against which day of visitation the said schoolmaster shall invite some of the learned men of his acquaintance, or others, dwelling in, or near the said town of Cheltenham, or the city of Gloucester, to be there present at the said visitation, at which visitation the said visitors appointed for the time being shall spend the time from eight or nine o'clock in the morning, until eleven, and from one until three, in the said visitation day, in opposing, trying, and examining the scholars of the said school for the time being, according to the covenant afore remembered. And that after such examinations are ended, the visitor then present shall determine and judge which four scholars of the said school have shown themselves best scholars of the whole number in the said disputations; and also which three of the next three fourmes to the highest fourme, have proved themselves the best scholars, severally of the said three fourmes. And according to such determination and judgment shall, with some convenient oration in Latin, give conclusion to that day's exercise." After these

various examinations were concluded, prizes were to be bestowed, which to us at the present day seem very curious and trifling articles, but at the time the donor was living, they were no doubt handsome and useful presents—money in the Elizabethan era being of a very different value to the current coin. “And dispose such gifts and rewards as the said Richard Pates, the founder, (knowing that honour and reward yielded to virtue and learning doth greatly augment the same, especially in youth, hath appointed to be for ever provided for that purpose,) that is to say, to the best of the four, a pen of silver wholly gilt, value 2s. 6d.; to the second best, a pen of silver, parcel gilt, value 1s. 8d.; to the third, a pen of silver, value 1s.; to the fourth, a penner and inkhorn, value 6d.; which four shall be termed the four visitors of the said school for that year, and that the other three adjudged the three best scholars of the next three several fourmes to the highest, have every one of them a quire of paper, price 4d. for their rewards.” When the prizes were severally given to the scholars specified at the conclusion of the oration, the whole company were to form themselves into a procession and go to the parish church. This, it should be borne in mind by the reader, was to be kept up every year. “The whole company of the scholars shall go in decent order, by two by two, into the parish church of Cheltenham, the four visitors coming last, next before the said schoolmaster and usher, each of them having a laurel garland on his head, provided for that purpose, and the other three rewarded scholars shall go together in one rank, next before the said four visitors, each of them holding his quire of paper folded up in his right hand. And in the said church they shall all kneel or stand in some convenient place to be appointed by the said schoolmaster, and then say or sing some convenient psalm or hymn, with a prayer, wherein shall be some convenient mention of the church, the realm, the town, and the said founder or his posterity then living.” This was doubtless instituted by Mr. Pate, in order to keep alive the interest of the charity, by preventing its falling into obscurity. This was his especial aim, as the several parts of his will clearly prove.

In reference to the foundation of scholarships, the founder covenants—“That at all and every time or times, when and as often as any room or rooms within Corpus Christi College, for a scholar or scholars of the County of Gloucester, shall be void

and vacant, that then the said president shall choose or admit into such room or rooms, one or more of the scholars of the said school at Cheltenham, being then as well qualified in every respect as any other scholar as shall stand against him or them to be elected out of the said school at Cheltenham."

The surplus of the estate is to be divided among different objects at discretion. "The sum remaining in surplusage, shall be yearly for ever bestowed, partly in bread, to be distributed among the poor dwelling in Cheltenham, on Good Friday, in the morning, and partly upon poor maidens' marriages in Cheltenham, and partly upon reparation of the highway leading, being and lying between Gloucester and Cheltenham, or upon any of these or other charitable deeds, as to the discretion of the said patrons and governors for the time being shall seem most convenient."

To the late T. Henney, Esq., a magistrate of the town, the public are indebted for a knowledge of the original grant of Mr. Pates. Mr. Henney took a warm interest in the charity, and at his own expense caused the document to be printed in 1820. In 1847, when the question of restoration was again in agitation, in consequence of the prior copies being lost, Mr. Henney again had the grant printed. At a vestry meeting held on Easter Tuesday, 1852, the grant and reports were ordered to be printed and circulated among the ratepayers. Some idea may be formed of the careful way in which the original grant was drawn up by Mr. Pates, from the fact that when it was re-published for the parish at the *Examiner* office, (with the committee's report) it filled sixty-four closely-printed pages!

On June 1, 1843, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Hale, Read, Goding, Hollis, Humphris, and the Minister and Churchwardens, were elected to inquire into the charity in so far as related to its scholastic application. This committee reported annually. In 1848, the head-master being deceased, the affairs of the charity took a new and unexpected turn. By this event the charity, so far as the Grammar School is concerned, fell under the provisions of the Act of Parliament, 3 and 4 Vic. cap. 77, entitled "An Act for Improving the Condition and extending the Benefits of Grammar Schools." The following committee was appointed on Easter Tuesday, 1848:—The Rev. F. Close, and Messrs. Wm. Hasell, G. J. Engall, Charles Hale,

D. J. Humphris, John Goding, Wm. Hollis, Samuel Chas. Harper, Geo. Rowe, and Robert Sole Lingwood, "to consider if any and what steps ought now to be taken by the inhabitants of Cheltenham, for improving the condition of the Cheltenham Free Grammar School." The committee persevered in their efforts, and through the assistance of one of the number, R. S. Lingwood, Esq., solicitor, were enabled to proceed with the most marked success. The trustees at present acting unlike their predecessors, also manifested a desire for the restoration of the charity, and aided in obtaining so desirable an object. The committee were heard before the Masters in Chancery during several terms, and ultimately on November 11, 1851, obtained the scheme at present in use, and on November 14 following, the case was finally closed in the Vice-Chancellor's Court, before Sir R. T. Kindersley, who, in ordering the expenses of the suit to be paid out of the estate, passed a high eulogium on the committee for the assistance they had rendered. The deep interest which the existing trustees had manifested in the matter, induced the parish to withdraw the suit from Chancery, where it had been for forty years. This was a consummation most devoutly to be wished, and henceforth the entire income of the charity will be devoted to the original object for which it was intended by its benevolent founder. In order to illustrate the expenses of this Chancery suit in past years, we put on record a few items from the annual balance-sheets as taxed by the court:—

YEAR.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE.	AMOUNT.
1840.....	Relator costs .....	£490 0 6
.....	Defendant's taxed costs .....	341 18 7
.....	Relator's taxed costs .....	176 10 11
1841.....	Relator's taxed costs .....	113 12 2
.....	Attorney-General's taxed costs .....	21 6 10
.....	Defendant's taxed costs .....	717 13 5
.....	Passing the accounts .....	95 7 2
1842.....	Passing the accounts .....	40 0 0
Total amount.....		£1996 9 7
1837.....	Granting Leases and Fines.....	£64 0 0
1840.....	New Leases and Counterparts .....	84 11 6
1841.....	New Leases and Counterparts .....	222 7 6
Total amount .....		£370 19 0

IN CONTRAST TO THIS WE GIVE THE EXPENDITURE OF THE CHARITY  
ESTATES AS ORDERED IN THE WILL OF MR. PATES.

To the Master of the said School, to be yearly paid .....	£16	0	0
To the Usher of the said School, the yearly sum of .....	4	0	0
For the charge of the yearly visitation of the said School.....	1	7	0
To the Bailiff for gathering the rents of the property annually	0	6	8
For the yearly repairs of the School and Alms-houses .....	0	16	0
To six poor people in the Alms-house, 1s. per week each.....	15	12	0
Livery Gowns, &c., for the said inmates .....	2	8	0
Total amount .. .....	£40	9	8

VISITATION EXPENSES ORDERED BY MR. PATES.

"For the charge of the yearly visitation of the said School, according to the order aforespecified in that behalf as followeth:	£	s.	d.
For the charge of a dinner the day of the said visitation, for the persons then assembled there with the visitors of the said School, and for horse-meat there 20s., and for the reward of Seven Scholars of the said School, according to aforesaid order, 7s. ....	1	7	0

VISITATION EXPENSES IN 1844.

"By Cash paid expenses incurred by the Trustees in a visitation to the Charity on June 2, 1841, by the President, one Bursar, and one Tutor of Corpus Christi College, BEING THE AMOUNT OF THEIR BILL AT THE HOTEL AT CHELTENHAM (!) with a proportion of their travelling expenses, the President and Bursar being then upon a progress elsewhere." .....	10	4	6
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The evil of the law proceedings and financial management consequent thereon, was strikingly illustrated by reports presented at a vestry meeting convened for the purpose in May, 1859:—"By the year 1855, the revenues of the charity ought to have amounted to £2,250 a year, and deducting one-fourth due to the charity, would give the sum of £1,686 coming to the inhabitants of Cheltenham, which sum was now reduced to £600, mainly owing to the keeping up of the lease system. There would now be an end to the fee system, for which there was never any necessity, and which was against the language of the good man who bequeathed the charity. The master only received £216 a year from the fund, instead of £616."—(*Address of G. E. Williams, Esq.*)

The charity has occupied the attention of the parishioners, in vestry assembled, for half a century. It is now gratifying to be enabled to record that the future income will be solely applied



to its legitimate object. The cessation of law proceedings has been brought about through the praiseworthy exertions of G. E. Williams, Esq., Clerk to the Improvement Commissioners, who by dint of perseverance in moving resolutions at vestry meetings, saved the interests of the charity from being further injured by legal expenses.

In order to perpetuate this most excellent bequest, we here publish a full description of the property which forms the endowment of the venerable "Schola Grammatica," and Alms-houses.

Pate's Charity, for the Endowment of a Free Grammar School and Alms-houses in the Parish of Cheltenham.—Terrier of the Charity Estates, description of property belonging to the charity.

#### IN CHELTENHAM.

The Old Swan Inn and premises, High-street.

Two houses and premises, Nos. 185 and 186 North side of High-street, and garden.

House and shop, Nos. 189 and 190, North side of High-street.

House and premises, No. 312, South side of High-street.

House and shop, No. 313, South side of High-street.

Three houses and premises, Nos. 314, 315, and 316, on South side of High-street.

Two houses in New-street, and two houses in Ambrose-street.

House and two shops, No. 181, on the North side of High-street, and premises behind.

House and premises, No. 182, on the North side of High street.

Part of King's Head Inn, South side of High-street.

Three houses and premises, Nos. 203, 204, and 205, High-street, and 17 houses on the East side, and 8 on the West side of Milsom-street.

House and premises on the West side of Milsom-street, called the Stone House.

Three houses, Nos. 207, 208, and 209, on the North side of High-street, and 13 cottages on the West side of Milsom-street.

Part of Regent Cottage, and part buildings behind, and land on the West side of Regent-street.

House and premises, No. 368, on the South side of High-street, with Tavern and and Wine Vaults in Regent-street, and land containing in length from North to South, 106 feet 9 inches.

Three houses on the North side of New-street.

Two houses, Nos. 195 and 196, on the north side of High-street, three cottages on the East side of King street, two cottages and land on the East side of King-street.

House, No. 169, on the North side of High-street, and garden and 15 houses on the West side of Ambrose-street.

Three villas called Oxford Villas and Keynsham Villa, Sandford Lodge and 22 houses in Corpus-street.

Land adjoining Keynsham House.

163, High-street, and 28 houses in Henrietta-street.

164, 165, and 166, on the North side of High-street.

Cowcombe Shade, *Oa.* 1*r.* 4*p.*  
 Four houses on the East side of King-street.  
 Two houses, workshops, and premises, on the North side of High-street, No. 192.  
 Land in the Marsh, *Oa.* 1*r.* 84*p.*  
 House and premises, No. 290, on the South side of High-street.  
 Brewery, stable, workshops, outbuildings, and land Sherborne-street.  
 Female Training School, late Hospital and Dispensary, and other premises on the North side of High-street.  
 Five houses, workshops, buildings, and yard in Albion-street.  
 House, No. 248, High-street, buildings and land on the South side High-street, adjoining Bloomsbury-place.  
 Two houses, No. 202 on the North side of High-street, with garden and cottage behind.  
 House, No. 201, on the North side of High-street.  
 House, No. 200, and land on the North side of High-street.  
 Plot of ground in the Lower Field on the North side of the Tarnpike Road leading from Cheltenham to Tewkesbury.  
 House, No. 292, on the South side of High-street.  
 Five houses, Nos. 287, 288, 289, 290, and 291, on the South side of High-street, with land, and four houses and land in Devonshire-street, having a frontage of 189 feet towards that street.  
 Five houses on land on the West side of Devonshire-street, and land having a frontage of 65 feet.  
 Three houses on land on the West side of Devonshire-street.  
 House No. 297, on the South side of High-street, a house behind in New-street, and garden between.  
 Five houses on the West side of Devonshire-street.  
 Land bounded on the West by New-street, and on the East by the Knapp.  
 House and premises, No. 61 on the North side of High-street, and Hartley House, in Albion-street.  
 Two cottages and land in the Parish of Swindon, containing *5a.* 0*r.* 17*p.*  
 House, 232, in the High street, extending to Back-street.  
 Houses and shops, No. 419, on the South side of High-street, with two cottages and workshops adjoining: also house and shop, No. 420 adjoining, with yard and outbuildings.  
 Charity School in Devonshire-street.

## IN GLOUCESTER.

Tenement and garden, heretofore called Trinity College, in the Parish of Holy Trinity, but now part and parcel of the Bull Inn and Malt house.  
 Tenement formerly called Grace Lane College, situated on the East side of St. John's Lane.  
 Part of a messuage or tenement in Northgate-street, on the South side of Dolphin Lane.  
 House and garden in Northgate-street.

In addition to this, the charity possessed a farm at Leigh 109 acres in extent. The Court of Chancery directed this to be sold, and the money was applied to meet the purchase of "Yearsley's Boarding House," and the other additions to the original school building.

## PATE'S ALMS-HOUSE.

Richard Pate, Esq., in 1578, founded, endowed, and erected an Alms-house, or as it was styled in the Elizabethan era, a hospital, for the support of six natives of Cheltenham, who had attained the age of 60 years. The grant securing this bequest, is a continuation of the same document alluded to in the preceding account of the Grammar School. The benevolent donor has evinced great care and forethought in the foundation of this charity, securing comfort, both physically and spiritually to the recipients, and laying down rules for perpetuating the benefits arising therefrom. During the lifetime of the donor, and for many years afterwards, the inmates received but £3 per annum each, in accordance with the original instructions; since the increased value of the property bequeathed, they have received each £20 per annum, besides being entitled to a rent-charge of 12s. upon Hatherly Farm. The Alms-house originally erected by Mr. Pate contained all the conveniences and comforts so feelingly detailed in the grant. It existed in the High-street, near the present Royal Hotel, on the site of the premises now occupied by Mills Brothers, and extended backwards to Albion-street. A representation of the building is preserved on a parchment terrier of the charity estates, and it is remembered by inhabitants now living. It was of ancient form, built of stone, and of a substantial character. To the house was attached a chapel, over the centre of which was suspended an exposed bell, which was wont to summon the inmates to their daily devotions. In this act they were frequently joined by some of the inhabitants, and the late E. Hatch, Esq., who was parish churchwarden for 21 years, was among the number who frequently mingled with the worshippers. The building was approached by a court yard neatly ornamented with a grass plat, and behind were garden ground, pasture land, and an orchard, as detailed in the extract from the grant annexed. Over the entrance door was inscribed "Holy and Indivisible Trinity Alms-houses, founded by Richard Pate, Esq., A.D. 1578." The bell which was wont to summon the ancient occupants to worship was in the possession of the late Mr. T. Haines, builder, and yet exists in the workshops in Windsor Terrace: it is now used to announce the time of departure for the workmen. In the Court

Roll at the Manor-office, occurs the following entry by J. Prinn, Esq., Steward of the Manor, made in the year 1690 :—" There are also within this town a Free Grammar School, now under the management of Mr. Robert Rogers, A.M., of the said University, a good man and an excellent scholar; also an Alms-house, both built of excellent handsome freestone in the seventh year of Queen Elizabeth's reign by Richard Pate, Esq., of Minsterworth, in the county of Gloucester, and both by him well endowed." In 1801, under the powers of an enclosure act, allotments of land were made in lieu of tithes. To effect this, the property of the parish had to be examined by a tithe commissioner, and an award given. In the award under this act, the Alms-house is thus described :—

<i>Annual Tithe</i>			
<i>Payment.</i>	<i>Owners.</i>	<i>Property.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>
£ s. d.			a. r. p.
3 8 4...	{ Corpus Christi } College	Alms-houses, Court, Garden.....	0 1 5
3 19 2.....			
	Ditto .....	Garden & Orchard adjoining thereto...	0 1 13

By virtue of a clause in the supplement to this act the Alms-house was taken down, and on its site was reared the Vittoria Hotel, a place of fashionable resort for some time, but which in its turn was also destined to obscurity, having been converted into the three private dwelling-houses now standing. The Alms-house was rebuilt in its present position in Albion-street, and has a stone front, with the name and date of its founder inscribed thereon. It has, however, no chapel, nor orchard and pasture attached, as in olden time, and the building itself is altogether different from what was intended by the donor. It occupies the site of a former billiard-room, which under the enclosure act was valued at only £1 15s. 8d., and the ground estimated to measure only 17 perches. This exchange of sites was injurious to the charity, the quantity and situation of the former rendering it most valuable property, whilst the small quantity of the present is valueless, and the situation is most objectionable. Except the increase in the payment, the Alms-house inmates are not in so good a position as in the lifetime of the founder, although the income of his estates has increased twelve times in amount since his decease; the number of six are all that are at present on the foundation.

The *Cheltenham Chronicle* of May 21, 1812, contains the following advertisement of the sale of the site of the old Alms-houses, and the editor's comment thereon :—

"Excellent situation in Cheltenham.—To be sold by private contract, a piece of freehold ground, with the old buildings thereon, most eligibly situated in the fashionable part of High-street, opposite the New Assembly Rooms.—For particulars apply to Mr. Smith, Bank."

"A neat and commodious Alms-house has lately been erected on the north side of our town; the poor dependants removed from their late dwelling, and the ground advertised to be disposed of for the construction of a more regular piece of building, in conformity to the other houses in the principal street. The old hospital was founded in the year 1574, by Richard Pate, Esq., who was recorder of Gloucester, 1556, and confirmed by Queen Elizabeth in 1561. The charity was originally designed for three men and three women. The houses at present are occupied by six aged females, whose support does not arise entirely from the primitive endowment, but from occasional donations and subscriptions."

The exchange of the sites was effected in 1811, by virtue of the supplemental enclosure act, and at the same time the sum of £250 was paid to the trustees, by Mr. Smith, the purchaser of the original buildings, who afterwards disposed of the property for £2,000.

Extract from Mr. Pate's grant :—"It is ordained that the hospital be for ever called and named by the title of the Hospital or Alms-house of the Holy and Indivisible Trinity, in Cheltenham, of the foundation of Richard Pate, Esq. And that there shall be from time to time for ever, remaining and sustaining there, six poor people, whereof two at least shall be poor women, and that they shall have every one of them a private chamber in the said hospital, and a private garden at the back side thereof, and shall have in common the kitchen of the said hospital, and the well there being, and the pasture and the profit of the orchard and close lying and being at the back side of the said hospital, and for their further relief as in the order of employment hereafter following in money and clothes is appointed for them. Item.—To the six poor people of the said hospital yearly, as followeth, viz.,—to every one of them on the Friday of every week in the year, 1s. in money, amounting yearly to £15 12s. And for the charge of 40 yards of black frieze, to be distributed among them yearly, between the feasts of St. Michael, the Archangel and All Saints, to make them livery-gowns therewith, viz., to every of the said poor men seven yards, and to either of the said poor women five yards, at 1s. the yard,

40s., and to every of them the said poor people fourpence apiece, to be delivered to them over and beside their week's wages, at every of the feasts of All Saints, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, yearly in toto £18. Item.—The churchwardens of the Parish Church at Cheltenham, for the time being, shall have the election or placing of some one or more for supplying or filling of the said room or rooms, so being void and vacant. Item.—And be it further ordained, that one of the said poor people shall be able to read the common prayers in the chapel of the said hospital, and that such reader shall be some old or impotent priest or minister that cannot conveniently serve in any place of cure or public ministry, of reason of such his impotency or age, if any such may be had conveniently. And that generally in such elections, utter decays of substance happening by having or breeding of many children, or by fire or tempest, or by robbery, or by wreck on the seas, or by unwise lending or suretiship, or by sickness, or by such other means as shall be mercifully or specially considered of; and further, that none shall be admitted but such as for the space of three years before have been of good name and fame, and have been void of all notorious crimes, and that a special regard be had to preferring honest widows or widowers, before others. Item.—It is ordained that every of the said poor people of the said hospital, shall twice in every day of the year, immediately after the tolling of the bell of the chapel of the said hospital, resort to the said chapel, and there be exercised for the space of one whole hour, in hearing divine service and common prayer read by the minister of the said hospital, and in default thereof, shall, nevertheless, be there continuing and remaining together in private prayer and contemplation during the said time, viz., from eight until nine o'clock in the forenoon of every day, and in the afternoon from half-past two until half-past three, between the feasts of All Saints and the Conversion of St. Paul, and during the residue of the whole year, from four until five o'clock in the afternoon of every day for ever. Except he or she having some lawful cause to the contrary be licensed to be absent by the said schoolmaster, or in his absence, by the usher for the time being, in which their said prayers private and public, they shall both forenoon and afternoon, pray especially for Christ's Church, and all the members thereof, for our sovereign Lady Elizabeth the Queen's Majesty that now is, and after

her decease, for the Kings or Queens of this realm for the time being, and for peace and concord in all Christendom, and especially in England, and for the preservation of the offspring of the said Richard Pate, their founder, then living, and for all the inhabitants of the town of Cheltenham. Item.—It is ordained, that none be chosen or admitted to be of the poor people of this foundation, but such as shall be of the age of three-score years at the least, and shall also be born within the parish of Cheltenham, and for want of such, then some other born in the parish of Leigh.”

#### THE TOWNSEND EXHIBITION.

Education, useful, liberal education, will ever remain “one of the requirements of the age.” Hence, we should attach great importance to the efforts that were made by those benevolent individuals, at different periods between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries to establish and permanently endow schools and college fellowships, for the gratuitous instruction of the children of this town. Among the number of bequests of this class, was one for the supporting of a scholar at Pembroke College, Oxford, to be elected out of the Cheltenham Free Grammar School. The donor was George Townsend, Esq., an individual who, by perseverance and industry, arose from the humblest walks of life, to be an eminent counsellor of the court of Charles II. Mr. Townsend became possessed of several valuable estates in this vicinity, the whole of which he bequeathed for charitable purposes. The donor received his education at Mr. Pate’s Grammar School, in this town. Mr. Townsend, when he grew affluent, knew from experience, that amongst the humbler classes there existed those who possessed talents, but had not the means to cultivate them, to the advantage of themselves or society at large. Hence, Mr. Townsend, not forgetting the means whereby he was himself enabled to rise to eminence, bequeathed property for the support of a youth residing in this town, at Pembroke College, who was an attendant at Mr. Pate’s School. The estate left for this purpose is situate at Cold Aston, about 12 miles distant. In the life time of the donor, it let for £80, and it is now worth £240 per annum. The estate was bequeathed for the support of eight scholars, four to be periodically sent from the endowed Grammar Schools of Cheltenham

Gloucester, Winchcomb, and Campden, and four at the discretion of the trustees, the President and Scholars of Pembroke College. The average annual value of each of these exhibitions is £50, when only the four school exhibitors are elected. They are enhanced by the donor having willed that any of the said scholars shall be eligible to hold the following church livings, which were his private property, being purchased shortly before his decease, for the purpose of increasing the value of the exhibition :—Colbrook, Bucks, donative ; Slifford, Essex, rectory, value £507 per annum ; Uxbridge, Middlesex, donative, value £111 per annum ; Thurrock Greys, Essex, vicarage, value £160 per annum. The donor has ordained that merit shall be the only test of qualification to be adopted at the election of these scholars. The youths regularly attending the school are to be summoned together on the day of trial, in the presence of the minister, bailiff, and churchwardens of this parish, when certain questions on history are to be put, and examinations in the English, Latin, and Greek languages are to take place, and the youth who manifests the most skill and correctness in his replies, is to be declared duly elected to the fellowship. This charity was founded in 1683, and is the more interesting on account of the founder having been himself a scholar at the very school he has endowed. The exhibition will now be of great value to the town, as the number of scholars at the Grammar School are so considerable as to render it certain that there will be many competitors. A laudable stimulus will thus be given to education, and the most diligent scholar in his studies will carry off the prize.

Extract from Mr. Townsend's will.—“ And whereas I am seized in fee of the reversion of a messuage and lands in Little Aston, called Little Aston Farm, in the parish of Cold Aston, in the county of Gloucester, and the tythes of corn thereof, I give and devise the same farm and tythes, and the appurtenances, unto the Master, Fellows, and Scholars of Pembroke College, in the University of Oxford, to have and to hold the same to them and their successors for ever, upon special trust and confidence, nevertheless, and to the intent and purpose that they pay, employ, and bestow the rents, issues, and profits thereof in manner following, that is to say, the first year and a half year's rent thereof after my decease for and toward the necessary building of, or repairing of



the said college; the next half year's rent thereof for and towards the providing of fitting studies and necessary bedsteads, feather beds, other bedding, and furniture, of chambers, to be used in succession by scholars hereafter to be placed within the said college, rent free, in respect to the said first year and half year's rent by me as aforesaid given, which scholars I will and desire to be in number eight, to be chosen on the first Wednesday in December yearly, the first election to be on the second year after my decease, whereof I will that one of the four of the first eight scholars be chosen by the Mayor and six of the senior Aldermen of the City of Gloucester, and the chief schoolmaster of the chief school there for the time being, out of the scholars of the said school; another out of the scholars of the Cheltenham School, in which I was a scholar; another out of Campden School; and a fourth out of Northleach School; the three last-named scholars to be chosen by the chief schoolmasters, ministers, bailiffs, or other chief officers for the said three towns for the time being, and in equality of voices, the said schoolmasters to have the casting voice; and my desire is that each scholar so elected go to the said college with writings under seal of their said elections, at the feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, thence next ensuing; and each scholar for and during eight years thence next ensuing, to have an eighth part of the said rents, and the rest of the said rents during the first four years of that time go to the further benefit of the said College; and my further will is, that on the said first Wednesday in December, in the last of the said four years, elections be made in like manner as aforesaid, in the said city and each of the said market towns, of one fitting scholar to go to the said University at the feast of Annunciation next ensuing, and each of them for eight years to have an eighth part of the said rent for his maintenance in the said college; and so on for every fourth year, elections be made to go to the said college in manner and form aforesaid; and every scholar to have a like share of the eighth part of the said rents for and towards his maintenance as aforesaid; and during the vacancy or absence of any such scholar from the said college, the others of them to have his share and part of the said rents; provided always and my will is, that none but fitting grammar scholars, fit to go to the said University, be elected; and in case any such not fitting

scholar be elected, I will that he be refused by the master of the said college to be admitted there, and in his stead another scholar of Gloucester School be elected; and my desire is that the said scholars during their four last years of residence in the said college, addiet the studies to Divinity, for whose encouragement therein, I will that my rectory of Slifford, and vicarage of Grays Thowek, in Essex, and the donations of Uxbridge and Colbrook, so often as any of them shall fall void, be conferred on such of the said scholars as shall be fitting divines."

It is gratifying to be able to add that in past times, as well as at the present day, the intentions of the donor have been fully realised. The late Rev. T. F. Henney, M.A., son of the late T. Henney, Esq., J.P., of Cheltenham, who was educated at Pate's Grammar School, in the town of his birth, won the Townsend Exhibition, and attained to great eminence as a scholar in after life. He was successively elected fellow, tutor, examiner, and bursar of Pembroke College, Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Lincoln, and was appointed to a Prebendary Stall in Lincoln Cathedral. In 1862 a scholarship of £90 per annum was founded in commemoration of Mr. Henney, in connection with Pembroke College. The periodical elections secure the best scholar in the school, and the competitions have a tendency to promote and stimulate the acquisition of knowledge.

"We have much pleasure in announcing that Mr. Henry Swann, a pupil of the Cheltenham Grammar School, has been recently admitted by the Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, to one of the Townsend Exhibitions belonging to the school."  
—(*Cheltenham Examiner*, March 13, 1861.)

Among the many who by the aid of this charity have been enabled to advance themselves in life, may be mentioned the celebrated Dr. Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury, the son of a butcher in humble circumstances in Gloucester, and the Rev. J. Lightfoot, A.M., the well-known botanist, and the companion of the great Pennant. The evangelical preacher, George Whitfield, owed his early fame to the fact of his preparing himself for a candidate for Townsend's Exhibition at the Crypt School, at Gloucester; and as a proof of the practical value of our ancient local Grammar Schools, it may be cited that the

learned native astronomer, Dr. Bradley, received his education at the Northleach Grammar School.

#### TOWNSEND'S SCHOOL BEQUEST.

Amongst the local educational bequests, was an annual sum payable out of an estate left by George Townsend, Esq., in 1683. Like many other charities left during the seventeenth century, the annual sum originally contemplated by the donor was exceedingly small. The great increase, however, of all classes of property in this locality since that period, has greatly enhanced the value of the bequest. Mr. Townsend willed £4 yearly "for teaching poor children to read and write, residing in the parish of Cheltenham." The property bequeathed now, and for many years past, has allowed £20 annually for this object. The bequest was the means of establishing the first school for the local poor, which is yet continued under the name of the "Old Charity School," Devonshire-street, and receives support from Mr. Townsend's estate. The source from whence this fund is derived, is a very extensive and ancient estate, situate at the adjacent village of Wormington. Of the value and fertility of this estate, the reader may form some idea from the fact that at the present day it realises £250 annually. The house is large, and in all probability was erected at the early part of the sixteenth century. The estate was very anciently one of great importance; and its different possessors, prior to its alienation to Mr. Townsend, in the reign of Charles II., are related by most county topographers. The land comprises 155 acres, the rental of which, added to the tithes of the parish, make up the income of the charity. The estate at Wormington, in the lifetime of the donor, realised about £70 annually. In 1804 it let for £150, and in consequence of an enclosure of some lands, it has increased since then £100 annually in value.

Between 1768 and 1807, the trustees out of the savings of income, purchased to the amount of £800, in the three-per-cent. consols, and the dividends were applied to enclosing and improving the estate.

Extract from Mr. Townsend's will.—"Whereas, I am seized in fee, with the Manor of Wormington, with the appurtenances, with a close in Winchcomb, in the aforesaid county of Gloucester, and a portion of tythes in Neather Guitings; and as for

and concerning the rents and profits of the said portion of tythes and of the said rest and residue of the said lands and tenements of the said Manor of Wormington, I will and appoint the same to be disposed and employed in the uses and interests and purposes following, that is to say, four pounds yearly for the teaching of poor children to read, and for buying of them books in each of the towns of Winchcomb, Northleach, Campden, and Cheltenham, in the said county of Gloucester, willing and ordering that the said children repair to the schools and be taught both forenoons and afternoons of all days, not being holy days or festival days appointed by the Church of England, not excepting the weeks of Easter, Pentecost, or Christmas, to avoid their being offensive at home or elsewhere; and I further will and appoint three shillings weekly to be disposed of in the church of Winchcomb every Lord's Day, by the ministers, bailiffs, churchwardens, or overseers of the poor there, to such of the poor there present as shall be frequenters of the church, and there present at most part or whole of Divine Service, and not to any other poor, sick, or impotent person of the same town. And I will and appoint twelvenpence weekly to be bestowed in bread, and distributed in like manner to each of the poor of the towns of Northleach, Campden, and Neather Guiting."

#### TOWNSEND'S APPRENTICESHIP BEQUEST.

George Townsend, Esq., in 1683, also left a portion of the annual proceeds of his estate at Wormington, before detailed "for the binding and putting forth of a poor boy, able to read, to be an apprentice," belonging to Cheltenham. The amount which annually accrues to the town from the charity is £15, and the trustees effect an apprenticeship, the preference being given to a boy educated at the Old Charity School, now amalgamated with the school in Devonshire-street. The donor has ordered that his trustees shall meet together every year at Winchcomb, and out of the estate have given to them an ordinary of the value of eight-pence, and an extra five shillings for ale. After the dinner, each trustee is to have presented to him a pair of new kid gloves. This request of the donor is strictly complied with, and the trustees annually assemble to commemorate the good man's benefactions at Winchcomb, and

although the change of time has increased the expense of "ordinaries," yet a little is added from private sources to the "eight-pence," in order to increase the comforts and the hilarity of the annual gathering.

Extract from Mr. Townsend's will.—"And I will and appoint that twenty and five pounds yearly be laid forth for the binding and putting forth of five poor boys, able to read, to be apprentices, whereof I appoint one to be of each of the towns of Northleach, Winchcomb, Campden, and Cheltenham, and the fifth to be of Neather Guiting, or of Blockly, in the county of Worcester. And if so many be not found fitting there, then of poor boys out of other places, at the discretion of my said trustees, or their successors. Willing also that my said trustees prefer such as shall be commended to them by the ministers, churchwardens, or overseers of the poor, or other officers of the said towns. And I will, desire, and order that my said trustees, or the greater number of them, and all assistants to them, be chosen as hereinafter is mentioned, for the better execution of these my trusts in them reposed, meet yearly in Winchcomb, in the first Saturday in the month of May, and that they have there an eight-penny ordinary for themselves only, and that five shillings shall be further allowed them for beer after dinner, and other their joint-expenses there, and that every one of them have a pair of gloves given him, not exceeding the price of twelvecence. And that the receiver of the said rents, and disposer thereof for the said several purposes, provide two books for accounts thereof, whereof one to be kept by him, and the other by one whom my trustees shall think fit; wherein shall be contained all the receipts and payments made, the names of all apprentices placed or appointed to be placed, and the names of trustees or assistants chosen, and all other concerns to be posed, audited, allowed and subscribed by the said trustees and assistants at their yearly meetings."

#### WALWYN'S CHARITY.

In 1627, John Walwyn, Esq., bequeathed the annual sum of £2 10s., chargeable upon the adjacent manor of Swindon, to the Cheltenham Churchwardens, to be by them annually distributed amongst the poor of their parish. This is the oldest local charity of its kind, and whilst similar bequests of a more recent

date have fallen to decay, or become consolidated, Mr. Walwyn's wishes have been from the first carried out. The ancient bequest is distributed yearly on the first day of May, amongst twenty aged and indigent persons in sums of 2s. 6d. each.

#### GEORGE'S CHARITY.

From the ancient church tablet, we learn, that in "1620, Robert George, Esq., gave by will 3s. 4d. to be paid yearly to the poor, and the like sum to the minister, for ever." The Charity Commissioners in 1824, in respect to this old bequest, report—"The present incumbent, the Rev. C. Jervis, has once received this, but there is no account of any other payment." This bequest was left as a remuneration for the incumbent for the time being to preach a sermon in "the sowing season," on the parable of the sower.

#### POOR'S GROUNDS CHARITY.

The land forming this bequest is situate in Bouncer's Lane, adjoining the New Cemetery, and contains 27a. 2r. 1p. For many years this land has been in the occupation of Mr. Charles Field, of this town, as yearly tenant, at a rental of £63 per annum. This amount has for many years been disbursed by the churchwardens on St. Thomas's day, and the mode of distribution has been to issue tickets entitling the recipients to food or clothing to the value of half-a-crown or five shillings, such tickets to be accepted and responded to by any tradesman in the town who is himself chargeable to the rates, and the object has been to afford this gratuity to such persons as have not received parish relief from the Union.

The Poor's Grounds were purchased in the reign of Charles II., and invested in the churchwardens as trustees on the part of the parish. During the period of the Commonwealth, many small bequests to the poor were lost, and after the Restoration, steps were taken to collect the sums of money lent out upon securities, and to invest the same in the purchase of lands. Hence the origin of the Poor's Grounds in most country parishes, of those of Cheltenham in particular.

Moreau says that "charities for the benefit of the poor and

for putting out apprentices were, in 1667, consolidated and laid out in the purchase of lands called the Poor's Grounds, which though worth only £8 5s. per annum, are now (1800) let for £18, and applied according to the intentions of the respective donors." The amalgamation of all the small charities into the Poor's Lands Charity is recorded on an ancient tablet in the Parish Church. On a parchment roll in the parish chest, containing some particulars of the older charities, and signed by the churchwardens, it is said that "In 1667, the Poor's Grouds were purchased with divers charities left by several pious persons."

Following the order of date, the next record of bequests occurs in the old vestry-book. The first entry is on October 17, 1636, and is an account of a vestry meeting, for the purpose of placing out at interest some of the charities of the parish, and is signed by the then churchwardens, Christopher Bayley, Walter Pard, and Thomas Comford. Although a folio page is taken up with a description of the charities, some of it is in such an illegible character that it cannot be transcribed entire. One charity is spoken of as left by will, Nov. 5, 1632, and another by a Walter Parry, amounting to £2 13s. 4d. per annum. The next entry is as follows:—"Given by John Norton, deceased, to remayne to ye poore yearly £3, paid to Sturney Roberts, and ye other churchwardens the sevene day of April, 1637." In five years after this date, the annexed is recorded in a very clear and conspicuous hand: doubtless the recorder in this instance was the minister for the time being—"In ye yeare of our Lord God, 1642. Memorandum; that fiftie pounds given and bequeathed by ye last will and testament of Alexander Parker, of Ham, gent., for ye yearly use of the parish of Cheltenham, was paid unto Walter Mason, one of ye churchwardens of ye said parish, and this year ye said fiftie pounds was let out by bond unto Lodwick Parker, gent., Henry Mason being his suretie.' The last notice of local bequest recorded in this old vestry-book prior to the Poor's Grounds purchase, is the following:—"In ye yeare of our Lortl God 1650, memorandum, that twenty shillings given and bequeathed by ye last will and testament of Thomas Finch Emily, deceased, to ye use of ye poore of ye parish of Cheltenham, was paid unto John Chostnow, John Collett, Robert Milton, and Matthew

Cox, churchwardens of ye said parish in this yeare, which said twenty shillings is to remain as a stock to yee use of ye poore for eever to be let out by the present and succeeding churchwardens." These, doubtless, are a portion of the charities which were amalgamated in the seventeenth century, and the gross sum applied to the purchase of the Poor's Grounds. This is corroborated by the circumstance of bequests that were left after the purchase being mentioned in the parish documents, while no allusion to the above is made. The Poor's Grounds were let out by the churchwardens from the very first, and the proceeds divided amongst the poor. In the parish chest, on a large parchment brief, is preserved a lease of these grounds, bearing date 1693, and it is the earliest document of its kind known. The lessee is John Wills, who is described as the son of a former lessee. The parties granting the lease are Walter Nicholls and John Finch, the churchwardens. The term was for eight years, "The pasture land £8, and the underwood at £10 per annum, called Broadlesow, Broadlesow Bottum, and Oatie Pedid." The most recent lease occurs amid some government correspondence in the parish chest. The lessee was John Gardner, Esq., at a rental of £20 per annum. Until within the last 30 years, it was customary to annually let these grounds by public auction at the Eight Bells Inn. The present lessee, as we have said, is Mr. C. Field, at a rental of £63 per annum. The manner in which the proceeds of the rental of these grounds has been expended in former years, and even down to a comparatively recent date, there is no written evidence to show. It was, in all probability, very anciently distributed in the way desired by those persons who left the bequests before detailed, the gross amount of which was applied to the purchase of these grounds. During the lifetime of a former incumbent of this parish, the Rev. C. Jervis, it was distributed amongst the indigent in bread and money. At the suggestion of the commissioners of public charities, at the time they visited the town, the churchwardens now distribute the amount in tickets which entitles the bearer to 5s. or 2s. 6d. worth of provisions at the shop of any tradesman in the town. These tickets are given away on St. Thomas's day, and for the sake of order, the churchwardens have limited the recipients of the charity to those who have been born in the town, and who have attained the age of 60 years. By these



means upwards of 800 of our old inhabitants are annually relieved. The net income in 1861 was £54 11s. 3d.

#### STANSBY'S CHARITY.

The property bequeathed in this locality is for a variety of objects, and among the number the very desirable one of periodically apprenticing out boys, "poor children of honest day-laborers," residing within the limits of the parish of Cheltenham. The first benefactor of this class, was the Rev. W. Stansby, a rector of the adjacent village of Badgworth, during the reign of Queen Anne; who left his estate situate in that parish in the hands of trustees, who were to divide the rentals and appropriate the proceeds in apprenticing out boys belonging to this and several of the adjoining parishes. The Rev. E. Walker, by virtue of his office of incumbent, is the present acting trustee for Cheltenham, and according to the amount received from the property, which is £28 19s. per annum, awards it to different tradesmen, who undertake to bring up in a full knowledge of their trade and profession, the various youthful recipients of the charity entrusted to their care. The property bequeathed by the Rev. W. Stansby for the desirable object of apprenticing out the poor children of our locality, consisted of seven very fertile plots of land, situate in the parish of Badgworth. The income was £16 7s. up to 1842; the amount of the rental of the land in quantity, 17a. 2r. 29p. On the occasion of making the railway from Cheltenham to Gloucester, the principal field was required, which was sold to the company for £410 14s. 9d., and the proceeds invested in the purchase of £456 7s. 6d. Bank 3 per cent. Annuities. The residue of the lands were by virtue of an enclosure act, amalgamated and let to J. E. Viner, Esq., for £15 10s. a year. The dividend from the funded property amounts to £13 9s., making the annual income of the charity £28 19s., about six times more in amount than was realised for many years after the donor's decease. The Rev. W. Stansby executed his will on May 3rd, 1704.

Extract from the Rev. W. Stansby's will.—"That they, the said trustees, shall out of the yearly rents of the said trust estates, pay, or cause to be paid, to my said trustees of the parishes of Badgworth and Great Shurdington, the sum of five pounds

yearly for ever; to my trustees of the parish of Churchdown, the sum of three pounds yearly for ever; and all the residue and remainder of the yearly profits of the said trust estate, I give and bequeath to my trustees of Cheltenham, to be disposed of in manner following:—The several sums of £5 and £3 and the sum annually remaining or accruing to Cheltenham, shall be expended or applied by my trustees in their respective parishes, each trustee acting within his own parish only, in the disposal of this bequest, with the assistance of the overseers of the poor, within two years farthest after the receipt thereof, to the binding out or apprenticing of one or more child or children of honest day-labourers, to some useful trade or occupation; but in no case, or at any time, to be given with or to the children of Usurers, Beer-sellers, or persons of wicked life or conversation, either known or reputed as such, nor to any of the family of Halling's, of Badgworth, except remarkable for goodness or honesty. . . . And if the said parish of Cheltenham shall misapply all or any of the said yearly revenue, or remainder of the profits of the said trust estate, then the said parishes of Charlton Kings and Leckhampton shall, for the term of eight years, receive and enjoy the same, equally to be divided between them in as ample and beneficial a manner as Cheltenham might or could have done. And if any of the said parishes of Charlton, Stanton, Brockworth, or Leckhampton, shall at any time misapply their said yearly legacies accruing to them by the forfeiture of any of the said parishes of Cheltenham, Badgworth, or Churchdown, then in such case the parish or parishes so perverting the bequest, shall for that time lose the benefit thereof, and the several sums of money which they ought to have received, shall for the term of eight years then unexpired, be equally divided among the other parishes."

#### LADY CAPEL'S CHARITY.

The Right Hon. Dorothy Lady Capel, widow of the Baron of Tewkesbury, by will, bearing date 1719, bequeathed the rentals of certain farm estates in Kent, for the support of twelve schools, in various parts of England, and in particular, of a Boys' School at Cheltenham. The amount which annually accrued to this town from this Lady's bequest averaged from £35 to £40, and the sum was given to the master, for the time

being, of "the Old Charity School," formerly carried on over the north porch of the Parish Church. Lady Capel's charity was anciently made highly beneficial to Cheltenham by the addition of a sum of money, raised by annual subscriptions from several of the more wealthy inhabitants. This desirable plan fell into decay, and, as a consequence, the school became a mere nonentity; and from its being carried on in a small room in the centre of the town, and surrounded by a graveyard, the health of the children was endangered, and a strong objection was made to its continuance in so unsuitable a situation. In consequence of these facts being made known, through the medium of the Charity Committee's reports made in 1843-4, to the parish, public attention was directed to the school, and since then a number of annual subscribers have been obtained towards its better support, and a neat and commodious school-room, in the Gothic style, with spacious play-grounds attached, has been erected in Devonshire-street. It is of considerable value to the locality in which it is placed, not alone from the discipline and education freely dispensed, but from the absence of any other school around it in a neighbourhood occupied by the humbler classes. This is undoubtedly the oldest local Charity School, not classical. It first originated in an annual endowment, now amounting to £20, made by G. Townsend, Esq., in 1683. At the period it was founded, the bequest realized but £4 annually; and being the only school of its kind, the matter was taken up by the inhabitants, and more especially as the increasing value of the donor's property would enhance the income.

The Charity School was established in the year 1713, by voluntary contributions of the inhabitants of Cheltenham and its vicinity, and was opened on Nov. 14th of the same year. In that year the subscriptions amounted to £40. During the first sixteen years the school was held at a house in the High-street, at a guinea-a-year rent; but as from the year 1729 we find no more payments for rent, or receipts of Mr. Thos. Smith, the landlord, we may reasonably conclude that at this date it was removed to the Parish Church.

Among its supporters were many families of distinction,—the Berkeley's, the De-la-Bere's, Sir John Howe's family, the Dutton's, Lady Capel's, Norwood, Priun, and many others. Sir John Howe's family contributed £3 annual subscriptions, besides

a £23 donation the first year, and a £5 donation for many consecutive years. The De-la-Beres were unceasing friends and supporters of the school, from the commencement up to the year 1810, when the name became extinct by the death of the Rev. John De-la-Bere, who was then treasurer. From this time we may date the falling off of the school; for until the year 1818 no treasurer was appointed, the number of subscribers diminished, and the few who remained took but little interest in the affairs of the Charity.

In 1723 the boys wore blue coats, yellow stockings, caps and bands; they spun the wool, and knitted their own stockings, for which they received a trifle as pocket money. The cost of clothing a boy at that time was 15s. per annum. In the remembrance of several persons now living, the boys were all clothed alike, in pepper-and-salt coats, corduroy trowsers and stout shoes; and about thirty years since a gentleman gave every boy a pair of leather inexpressibles and strong shoes, at his own expense.

The efforts thus made to educate the boys of the poor were further aided by the endowment of Lady Capel, who died in 1721. The first payment from Lady Capel's estate was received by the school on May 12, 1722, and amounted to £7 10s.;—it now amounts to £35 a-year. The first master was Peter Maurice; his salary was £20 per annum.

Extract from Lady Capel's will:—"In the name of God, Amen.—I, Dorothy Lady Capel, Baroness Dowager of Tewkesbury, the relict of the Right Hon. Henry Lord Capel, Baron of Tewkesbury, deceased. As concerning the real and personal estates wherewith God hath blessed me, I dispose thereof as followeth, that is to say, Whereas I am seized of a good estate of inheritance in fee simple to me and my heirs of and in all that the farm and lands called Parry or Perry Court, with the closes and lands thereto belonging, situate and being in Preston, Feversham, Ospring, and Leddenham, in the county of Kent. And of and in all that messuage in the parish of St. Vedastus or Forsters in the City of London: of the manor of Richmond in the county of Surrey, and in all that my capital messuage, &c., at Kew Green, and of and in divers other messuages, farms, and lands, held of the said manor. I am also seized according to the custom of the manor of Barnett, in the county of Hertford,

of and in all that messuage and lands thereto belonging, called Prickleshill Farm, and of divers and customary land held of the said manor. I do hereby give, devise and bequeath, all that my said farms and lands, and all other my lands, &c., in the county of Kent, unto the Hon. S. Molyneux, Esq., principal secretary to his Royal Highness Prince George of Wales, Sir Philip Jackson, of Richmond, in the county of Surrey, John Lely, Esq., of Kew Green, and Christopher Appley, of the Middle Temple, London, and their heirs to have and to hold for ever upon trust, shall yearly make up, state, and adjust in a book to be kept for that purpose, a just and true account of the said property, and subscribe their names thereunto, and shall afterwards divide the clear money yearly arising therefrom into twelve equal parts, to be applied for the support, use, and benefit of the said charity schools for ever, that is to say, the charity school for boys and girls, at Richmond, in the county of Surrey; the charity school for boys at Mortlake, in the same county; the charity school for boys at Brentford Butts, in the county of Middlesex; the charity school for boys at Ealing, in the same county; the charity school for boys at Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, in the county of Gloucester; the charity school at Peversham, in the county of Kent; the charity school at Haltwhistle, in the county of Northumberland; the charity school for girls in the parish of St. Andrews, Holborn, (where I was born), the charity school at Chiswick, in the said county of Middlesex, and the charity school at Hammersmith, in the parish of Fulham."

From these extracts it will be seen that the donor has endowed eleven schools. The remaining twelfth part of the annual income arising from the estates, is to be allotted to the parish of Kew, in Surrey, either for the purpose of supporting a school, or apprenticing out children. The former is very judiciously chosen. In case any one of the schools should at any time be discontinued, those remaining are to derive the advantage equally; and in case they should all of them fall to decay, then the income of the charity is to be appropriated for the support of six clergymen's widows.

The estate from whence this Charity is derived having become dilapidated, repairs were needed of an extensive kind. To meet this expense, a sum is annually withdrawn from the income, which reduces the sum for Cheltenham to £15. After this is

paid, the original sum will be available for the purposes of the Charity.

#### COX'S CHARITY.

In 1727, Giles Cox, Esq., then churchwarden of this parish, bequeathed a perpetual annuity of £4 annually, for the purpose of either educating or apprenticing out a poor lad belonging to Cheltenham. The amount is payable by the lessee for the time being of a ground called "Picked Oakley," at Charlton Kings. The lessee is W. J. Agg, Esq., of Hewletts, who, in order to carry out the excellent intention of the donor, and to prevent it from being frustrated by the change which time has effected in the rate of apprenticeship premiums, has allowed the sum to increase to £20. By adopting this plan, Mr. Agg is enabled to apprentice out a lad every five years, born in the parish of Cheltenham, to some discreet person following a trade or handicraft in some other town or village; as willed by Mr. Cox, June 13, 1727.

Extract from Mr. Cox's will :—" All that enclosure of Pasture, called Picked Oakley, in the parish of Charlton Kings, adjoining to Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, by estimation five acres, upon trust, out of the rent, issues, and profits of the premises, pay for ever, to some man, not being Master or Usher of the Free School, who, in Cheltenham aforesaid, should teach boys, parishioners of Cheltenham, of the meaner sort, to read and write, after the death of the said Giles Cox, £4 yearly, or £4 yearly for ever, every year, in placing one boy, parishioner of Cheltenham aforesaid, an apprentice, not in the same parish, to some honest tradesman; and the surplus of the said issues and profits, if any, to retain and have to their own use, for their trouble in the said trust."

#### MISS WELL'S CHARITY.

Nearly opposite the entrance to the Presbyterian Church, in the High Street, and but a short distance from the angle of St. George's Street, is a spacious dwelling, ornamented on one side with a modern plate-glass front shop, in the window of which is displayed jewellery in all its varieties, and on the other side by a projecting sign, whose three pendant gilt balls denote the abode of an "Uncle," who practises the mysterious art of passing people's property "up the spout." Until within the

past quarter of a century, this building, then a private house, presented the most aristocratic frontage in that part of the town. It was elegantly furnished within, and its ground in the rear was so extensive as to reach to Regent-place, and formed in fact the site upon which the east side of St. George's Street and the Wesleyan Chapel is erected. This large plot of land was most tastefully laid out as an ornamental garden. A summer house, on which the honeysuckle entwined, and a moss house, stood on an elevated mound on the extreme end, on either side of which, conspicuously placed on pedestals, were the statuary figures of Cupid and Pysche. In the year 1781, two lovers were often observed taking their walks amid these ornamental and winding paths, within sight of the God of Love, who stood with his bow and sheath full of arrows, as if ready to pierce the heart of the standers-by. The two personages presented a great contrast in their respective ages. The lady looked as if the shades of nearly three-score years had descended upon her brow,—the gentleman a gay and fashionable personage of about twenty-one! But, notwithstanding this great discrepancy in age, it was confidently announced that the couple were to be firmly united in the indissoluble bonds of matrimony. Rumour was rife as to the motives which prompted the suitor. The bride elect resided in her own house, and had other mansions to boot, including St. George's Square opposite, besides a very competent personal estate. The wedding was finally arranged, and the friends of both parties invited. The affair was likely to have been a gay one, and the invitations issued were numerous. But, how uncertain is the occurrence of things projected by poor humanity. The wedding did not take place,—the old lady lost her intended husband!

“Ah, me! for aught that ever I could read,  
Could ever hear by tale or history,  
The course of true love never did run smooth;  
But either it was different in blood;  
Or else misgrated, in respect of years.”

But good always comes out of evil, and Miss Wells's loss was a perpetual gain to the poor of Cheltenham. “Can such things be,” the reader will naturally ask? We reply that we are relating a romance of real life, and that in consequence of that broken match, twelve aged and infirm inhabitants of this town

every year, in the month of March, receives a sum of money towards their support, as we shall hereafter show from official documents. These poor pensioners will perpetuate to future ages the origin of this singular bequest. The affair is also recorded on a tablet-shaped painted board, elevated within the Parish Church, near the mary-gold window. The loss of her youthful suitor naturally shocked the nervous system of the intended bride, and she stood in need of the assistance of both spiritual and medical advisers. Among the former was a Dissenting Minister, who in order to soothe the affliction which the unhappy event had caused, offered his hand and heart as an effectual remedy. The offer was accepted, and the deed was this time properly done, and Miss Wells was safely transformed into Mrs. Williams. We will now briefly relate the facts of this singular case, and from which it will be seen that "truth is stranger than fiction."

The charity known as Miss Wells's takes its origin from the year 1782. It was originally only the interest arising from £170, but is now more than that sum. Half of the dividends is payable to six poor persons connected with the Cheltenham Parish Church, and the remaining half to six poor persons attending the services at Bethel Baptist Chapel. The amount is dispensed in the month of March by the trustees, the ministers of the respective places of worship before named, for the time being. The interest now amounts to £6 12s. annually, which is distributed by the churchwardens on behalf of the Rev. E. Walker, and by the Rev. J. Freeman, minister of Bethel Chapel.

Miss Wells was for many years an inhabitant of this town, and resided in that portion of the High-street (No. 172) which now adjoins St. George's Street. This property was her own, as was also the greater portion of the site of the last-named street, and St. George's Square opposite. This extensive property attracted the attention of the "gay Lothario," and for a while Miss Wells had a most constant suitor. At length a marriage was finally decided upon, and the preliminaries were "signed and sealed." The day prior to the wedding morn arrived; but "there is many a slip between the cup and the lip."—A resignation was sent in by the "gay Lothario," who contended that property was a poor compensation for the absence of youth and beauty! This insult was repelled by Miss Wells, who instituted



a law suit for a breach of promise of marriage. The trial took place at the Gloucester Assizes, held on August 30, 1782, and the jury brought in a verdict for the plaintiff with £170 damages. This money was placed in the hands of a townsman and magistrate, Dr. Newell, until September 20, 1815, when by will it was bequeathed for the object above described. Miss Wells afterwards married the Rev. H. H. Williams, formerly minister of Bethel Chapel, Cheltenham. She lived to the patriarchal age of 87, and died at her residence in this town, on Nov. 20, 1815. Thus twelve of our aged inhabitants are annually receiving benefit in consequence of a breach of promise of marriage! The sum thus bequeathed has now increased in value from a variety of causes. Shortly after the decease of the donor, her husband, the Rev. H. H. Williams, paid the sum of £170 to Dr. Newell, and after consultations on the subject between several of the parishioners, especially the Rev. C. Jervis, Dr. Newell, the holder of the bond, Mr. Seager, the acting executor, Mr. T. Gwinnett, solicitor, Rev. H. H. Williams, Mr. B. Wells, Mr. Fisher, &c., it was determined to vest the money in the navy 5 per cents., in the name of the Rev. C. Jervis and the Rev. H. H. Williams. The 5 per cents. afterwards merged into the 4 per cents., and the sum was transferred also. It was finally fixed in the new 3½ per cents., and at the time the last dividend was made it was worth £188 15s.

Extract from Miss Wells's will.—“I direct and appoint that the sum of £170 be paid out of the said settled property, to discharge a bond given by me to Thomas Newell, Esq., of Cheltenham; which bond was given in order that, after my decease, the said sum of £170 should be placed out at interest, for the benefit of six poor men and six poor women residing at Cheltenham aforesaid, of the age of sixty years or upwards, one half of them belonging to the Baptist congregation there, and the other half belonging to the Established Church of England there. The interest to be annually distributed among them in the month of March, by or under the direction of the ministers of the respective places of worship there.”

The original trustees in whose names this singular charity is vested are now deceased; the last survivor, the Rev. H. H. Williams, died December 1, 1852, at the age of 87, and was interred in the Wesleyan Burial Ground, in St. George's Street,

according to his request, as the place once formed part of his own garden and the scene of the courtship which lead to the trial for a breach of promise, being the property of Miss Wells, the founder of the charity, whom he afterwards married.

#### COLONEL OLLNEY'S REQUESTS.

Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Ollney was a magistrate of the town, and resided at the mansion formerly occupied by J. C. Straford, Esq., at the Cambray entrance to the Bath Road. This benevolent gentleman died on January 16, 1836, and bequeathed a large amount to public charities. Among the number of his bequests was the sum of £8,000 to the cities and towns of Cheltenham, Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Winchcomb. This sum was, however, left with the proviso that each of the before-named places should purchase the ground on which the said Almshouses were to be erected within ten years after the testator's decease. The inhabitants of Cheltenham, in order therefore to secure to themselves the advantage of this munificent bequest, convened a Public Meeting at the Town Hall, on January 8, 1846, within ten days only of the time required by the donor's will. It should, however, be mentioned that the delay was not occasioned by any reluctance on the part of the town to contribute towards the purchase of the land, but solely on account of a protracted and vexatious law-suit which was pending in the Irish Court of Chancery, and which left it doubtful whether the amount bequeathed could be paid out of the estate. As soon as the law-suit took a favourable turn, and the application of the charity was more probable, the meeting in question was called, and presided over by the Rev. F. Close. A subscription was opened, a sufficient sum was raised, and the ground purchased and conveyed to trustees. The site is in the Tewkesbury Road, contiguous to St. Peter's Church—a healthy spot, and well calculated for the erection of an Almshouse.

The sum left by Colonel Ollney was part of a mortgage of £36,000 secured by bond upon the estates of Lord Aldborough, in Ireland. Under the Sequestered Estates' Act the property was sold, and the proceeds of the sale realized more than was anticipated from the depressed value of Irish lands. The executors applied in 1849 to the Rolls Court for power to carry out the intentions of the donor. The case was referred by the

Master, and in two years afterwards it was reported that the bequest was open to legal objection from its interfering with the Statute of Mortmain. The judgment was given with this saving point, that the case should be taken to a superior court of law for final decision. It is to be hoped that the legal proceedings will not be further protracted, for the charity, when carried out, will be a boon to many an aged inhabitant, and the ground having been secured, and the bequest ready for application, it only waits a favourable construction from a court of law to call into existence "Ollney's Almshouses."

Extract from Colonel Ollney's will.—"The following is a scheme by which I desire all the Almshouses intended to be founded by me to be regulated, and which are to be called 'Ollney's Almshouses.' As I have directed the sum of £8,000 to be set apart for each of the four sets of Almshouses as soon as a proper site has been presented for that purpose. The building should consist of one general sitting room or hall, for the concurrence of the inmates to take their meals and sit in. The hall to contain two fire-places, for the convenience of the poor inmates—one for the men, the other for the women; and on one side of the hall a kitchen is to be erected, and on the other a decent parlour, with one fire-place, for the convenience of their friends. And I desire that over these rooms for general use, should be placed the bedrooms of the poor inmates,—nine on each side; of which I intend ten to be for the poor men, and eight for the poor women,—each charity altogether consisting of eighteen persons. I desire that £100 may be expended in furnishing each Almshouse, and, as near as the nature of circumstances will admit, in the following manner:—Fireirons and fenders for each of the rooms, of common use; a table, forms, two chairs, and the usual apparatus for cooking for the kitchen, and likewise one iron bedstead, two chairs, one table, fireirons, and a fender for each of the bed-rooms. I wish to allow a sufficient fund out of the £8,000 to be set apart to produce £10 annually, to be laid out in repairs. I desire that six shillings a week should be paid to each of the poor men, and four shillings a week to each of the poor women; and I intend the sum of thirty-six shillings annually to be expended in providing each of the poor men a coarse blue cloth coat and waistcoat, and one pair of corduroy breeches; and for each of

the poor women, annually, the sum of thirty shillings, to be expended in providing each of them with a coarse blue stuff gown, petticoat and bonnet. And I wish the worthiest and most deserving of each to be selected as superintendent Master and Matron, to whom I give an additional sum of three shillings per week to the Master, and two shillings and sixpence to the Matron. I desire that no person who has within seven years received parochial assistance be admitted into such Almshouse. In every other respect I give the full power of selection to the Mayor and Corporation, or governing body of the place in which such Almshouse is to be founded. And I desire that there shall be a written recommendation as to character in the first instance, procured by any candidate for admission from the clergyman of the parish of such candidate. Those only to be admissible who have been upwards of seven years inhabitants of the towns in which the said charities are to be founded, and who are of the age of fifty-six years at the least. I direct that the poor inmates shall attend divine service twice on every Sunday. And I constitute the Mayor and Corporation, or other governing body of such place in which my charity is established, to be sole visitors, and to have full power to expel any person for immoral or other improper conduct, or drunkenness."

He also bequeathed to the Treasurer of the Gloucester Infirmary, £1000, and to the School of Industry at Cheltenham, £500.

#### URQUHART'S CHARITY.

The most recent benefactor to the publicly endowed charities is J. H. Urquhart, Esq., who has left a portion of his personal property for the support of the poor during the winter period of the year.

Extract from the will of Jnes. Harvey Urquhart, Esq., late of Seven Oakes, Kent, dated July 21, 1841, and proved at Doctors' Commons, June 26, 1850. The Testator died May 2, 1850.—"I direct my Executrix and Executor heretofore named as soon as convenient after my decease to purchase and invest in their joint names, £3,000 Stock, in 3½ per cent. Reduced Bank Annuities, out of such part only of my personal estate and effects as by law is capable of being devoted by the will to charitable purposes, and my will is that my said executrix and executor, and the survivors of them upon the trust following, that is to say, to pay the interest, dividends, and annual income

thereof, unto, or permit the same to be received by my said wife and her assigns during her natural life, and from and after her decease, upon trust, that they, my said trustees for the time being, do and shall stand and be possessed of the sum of £1,000, (being one third part of the said stock upon trust,) to pay and apply the dividends and interest, or annual income thereof, to the guardians, trustees, or other officers belonging to the almshouses of Seven Oakes, aforesaid, to be by them applied to the said charity. And I direct that the receipt of any one of the said guardians or trustees, for the time being, of the said charitable institution, shall be deemed a sufficient discharge for my said trustees for the same dividends or annual income. And £1000, being one other third part of the said  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. Bank Annuities, upon trust, that they my said trustees do and shall pay the interest, annual income, and dividends of the said mentioned sum of £1000 unto the churchwardens for the time being of the parish of Cheltenham aforesaid, to be by them from time to time laid out in the providing of clothing and fuel, which shall be by them distributed annually, at Christmas, amongst ten poor families,—to be selected by the said churchwardens,—inhabiting the said parish of Cheltenham, and who shall not have received parochial relief, or relief from any poor-law union during the preceding year.”

In a correspondence which the Churchwardens have had during the year 1861 with the Charity Commissioners, enquiry was made as to the actual sum invested under the provisions of the Will of the late J. H. Urquhart, Esq., and on applying to Messrs. Harris and Lewis, of Lincoln's Inn, solicitors to the Trust, the Churchwardens received the following statement :—

“The legacy of £1000 was a legacy of new 3 per cents. not of cash. To pay the legacy of £228 18s. 8½, and the costs of the petition in Chancery, £27 15s. 8½, the sum of £122 0s. 7d. was sold out by order of the Court, leaving £867 12s. 5d. invested.”

#### THE BAPTIST CHARITIES.

Bequests to poor professors of the Baptist persuasion, and for the general expenses of Bethel Chapel, have been left by local members of the sect, at various periods, from the first formation of the congregation. The following are enumerated in the Charity Commissioners' Report, made in 1824, being the last official document relative to the subject.

## DARKE'S CHARITY.

John Darke, Esq., of Prestbury, gave to the poor of the congregation, in 1783, the sum of £50. This legacy was subject to some prior interest, which terminated in 1791, when the sum was invested in the funds, and produced £1 19s. 6d. annually. The executor of Mr. Darke added to the bequest, and thus was founded Ballinger's Charity.

## ASHMEAD'S CHARITY.

By Will dated Dec. 7, 1742, John Ashmead, Esq., left his estate "towards the relief of such poor persons of the congregation of Protestant dissenters commonly called Baptists, meeting for Divine worship in Tewkesbury and Cheltenham, as to them, the said trustees, shall seem most convenient." In 1753 a deed was executed, by which Cheltenham was rendered independent of Tewkesbury, and the recipients were to receive the bequest "from the trustees and principal members of the Baptist Church constituted at Cheltenham." To render this the more secure, a regular trust deed of Bethel Chapel was executed Oct. 1, 1767, which has been regularly renewed when the trustees are reduced by death to the number of two. The annual income of Mr. Ashmead's estate produces £86 4s. 6d., besides fines payable every twenty years, from £10 to £150, according to the nature of the property, which is mostly land, leased for building purposes for different periods, similar to that left for the endowment of Pate's Grammar School. The property is as follows:—

Term of Lease from 1806.	Property where Situate.	Annual Rent.	Fines payable every twenty years.
Years.		£ s. d.	£
99	House—Chapel Street .....	1 1 0	10
99	Grove's Wagon Warehouse .....	4 4 0	20
99	Houses—Chapel Street .....	15 15 0	150
99	Chapel House and Ground .....	4 4 0	40
99	The Castle, Chapel Street .....	6 6 0	60
99	House—Chapel Street .....	2 2 0	20
99	House—Ambrose Street .....	1 1 0	10
from 1806.			
41	Red Lion Inn .....	50 0 0	20
Yearly tenant	House—New Street .....	1 11 6	

## BALLINGER'S CHARITY.

By Will, dated May 27, 1805, John Ballinger, Esq., thus bequeathed :—" I give and devise the sum of £49 11s. 4d. in the 4 per cents. Bank Stock, which stands in my name, being what was purchased with a legacy of £50 left to the poor of the Baptist congregation at Cheltenham, by Mr. John Darke, of Prestbury, and as much of my own money as will purchase in the same bank stock what will make with that sum £100 stock, so that the poor may have £4 yearly dividend among them, whereas, now they have but £1 19s. 6d., and that the profits or dividends arising therefrom be divided and given to the poor of the said Baptist congregation at Cheltenham, on the 14th February, year by year, and that within a fortnight after the distribution of the same, the managers of the said charity do lay in some convenient part of the meeting house, and there to remain for two Lord's Days at least, an account, how and to whom the money was disposed of."

## LLOYD'S CHARITY.

Mrs. Sarah Lloyd, widow, of Cheltenham, by Will dated October 22, 1808, bequeathed " upon trust, to pay unto the minister for the time being, of the religious society or congregation of Protestant Dissenters in Cheltenham, called Baptists, the sum of £100 in trust, and for the general purposes of the said society."

## RANSFORD'S CHARITY.

Edward Ransford, Esq., of Bristol, by Will, dated August 20, 1818, gave £400, " and the dividends, interest, and profits thereof from time to time, paid to the managers, deacons or ministers of the Baptist interest at Cheltenham, towards the support of that interest, but so long only as they profess to believe and preach the particular doctrines now professed by them. But in case the said Baptist interest should decline to preach and believe such doctrines, the said dividend arising from the said £400, shall be paid and applied to the managers, deacons or ministers of the Baptist Chapel at Tewkesbury, if they shall continue in the faith they now profess. But in case at any time after the said Cheltenham interest shall decline, and return to and believe the doctrine they now profess as Particular Baptists, then I give and direct the treasurer and trustees of the

Bristol Baptist Fund Society in the City of Bristol, to pay, apply and dispose of the same dividends to and for the support and uses of the said Baptist interest at Cheltenham again."

#### WELLS' CHARITY.

In 1815, Miss Wells left half of the interest of £170 to be annually distributed among six of the poor attendants of Bethel Chapel.

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#### BEQUESTS TO CHELTENHAM CHAPEL.

By Will, bearing date Jan. 15, 1815, Benjamin Friend, Esq., a resident of the town, bequeathed the interest arising from the sum of £200 towards the support of the Minister, for the time being, of Cheltenham Chapel. Annexed is a copy of Mr. Friend's will:—"I give and bequeath to the Rev. John Brown, Minister of the New Chapel, Cheltenham, the sum of two hundred pounds. I give and bequeath unto the trustees for the time being of the said Chapel, the sum of two hundred pounds. And I declare that the trustees for the time being of the New Chapel at Cheltenham aforesaid, shall stand possessed of the said sum of two hundred pounds hereinbefore bequeathed to them, upon trust to place out and invest the same in or upon Government, real or other good security, at interest, and to pay the dividends, interests, proceeds thereof, when and as often as the same becomes due, and be received, unto the said John Brown, so long as he shall continue minister of the said Chapel, and to the future pulpit minister of the said Chapel for ever."

In 1837, H. Bromfield, Esq., of this town, also bequeathed the sum of two hundred pounds to the trustees of Cheltenham Chapel, "for producing an annuity for the resident minister for the time being." The following is an extract from the agreement made between the Chapel trustees, the minister, and the executors of the donor:—"Purchasing stock in the names of four of the trustees, who also execute a declaration of trust reciting the bequest, and declaring that they stand possessed of the stock, and that they will pay to or permit the resident minister to receive the dividends as they become due. And that on the death of two such trustees, the two surviving shall transfer the stock into the names of two other trustees with them-



selves, and so as often as two shall die. Signed, Jno. Barfield, Jan. 24, 1838." "I hereby engage as regards the investment of the money by the trustees, to abide by the decision of Mr. P. Barfield. Signed, John Brown."

#### OTHER EXISTING CHARITIES.

Mrs. Anne Wicks died at Regent-street, Cheltenham, on June 17, 1841. Her personal estate was estimated at £80,000, and her real estate at £9,000. Amongst the number of places to which she bequeathed portions of her property was Frampton-on-Severn, in this county—the village in which she was born. She willed to Frampton Church £1,000, for a communion plate; £50 for a cloth to the communion table; £100 to rail in the churchyard; £500 for the purpose of generally improving and enlarging the church; £100 to the vicar; and £500 for a monument to be erected to her memory. The interest of her entire Bank Stock she desired to be distributed annually to the poor of Frampton on her birth-day—April 23.

Miss Jane Cook, an old inhabitant of the town, who died in 1851, gave to the Church Missionary Society £5,000; the five acres of ground on which the Church of England Training College is erected; ground for the establishment of a Boy's Orphan Asylum; £2,600 to the London Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews; Irish Church Missions, £200 and £60 annually to the District Churches. The extent of this lady's bequests may be inferred from the following inscription on a monument erected to her memory in St. Peter's Church, to which she was also a benefactress:—"In Memory of Miss Jane Cook, who died February 11th, 1851, aged 75 years. Being anxious to promote the glory of God, she devoted her Property to the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures both at home and abroad, and to the support of Missions among the heathen, as well as to the Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews. She contributed largely towards the erection of a Church on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, for Divine Worship according to the Ritual of the United Church of England and Ireland, where salvation through 'Jesus of Nazareth' might be proclaimed to 'the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' She was also a liberal Benefactress to this Church and Parish, and ever adopted the language of the Psalmist—'Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us,

but unto Thy name give the praise, for Thy loving mercy and for Thy truth's sake."

Miss Cook died worth £27,069 Bank Stock, and £34,788  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cents, besides shares in many public companies, and a large real estate. Major Barrett, in 1838, bequeathed £450 to the Gloucester Infirmary. In 1842, Mrs. Sarah Bate left by will £500 to the Female Orphan Asylum, in Winchcomb Street. In 1849, George Richards, Esq., of the Promenade, bequeathed £10,000 to be divided among various local benevolent institutions. The late Mrs. Catherine Ball, of Cheltenham, widow, who died on the 26th of January, 1860, besides her estates in Ireland, was possessed of personalty in England valued at £20,000. The following were her charitable bequests; to the poor of Drumholme, Ireland, £100; Irish Church Missions, £100; Irish Church Education, £100; Reformation Society, £100; Scripture Readers, Ireland, £100; British and Foreign Bible Society, £100; Society for distributing and Teaching the Bible in the Irish language, £100; Cheltenham Branch Church Missionary and Pastoral Aid, £100 each; Cheltenham Hospital, £50; Female Refuge, Cheltenham, £50; to the ministers of St. Paul's, St. Peter's, and other Churches in Cheltenham for the poor, £50 for each district. Leaving £300 for the erection of almshouses for poor widows of St. Paul's, Cheltenham, and £300 for the endowment thereof. To a Scripture-reader she has left a freehold house, and to the widow of another Scripture-reader, £100.

## THE ENDOWED CHARITIES OF CHELTENHAM.

Founders.	When Foun- ded	For what Purpose.	Present Annual Income.
R. Pate, Esq., M.P.,	1578	Free Grammar School & Alms Houses	1700 0 0
J. Watwyn, Esq.	1627	Annually to the Poor . . . . .	2 10 0
T. George, Esq.	1620	Annually to the Poor and Minister .	0 6 3
		These bequests, with others now lost,	
		were amalgamated by the then	
W. Perry, Esq.	1632	Churchwardens, in the reign of	
J. Norton, Esq.	1637	Charles II., and the "Poor's	
A. Parker, Esq.	1642	Grounds" purchased with the	
T. F. Emily, Esq.	1650	amount, in 1667.	
The Churchwardens.	1667	Annually to the Poor on St. Thomas'	
		day . . . . .	54 11 3
G. Townsend, Esq.	1683	A Scholar from Pate's School to	
		Pembroke College . . . . .	80 0 0

Founders.	When Found- ed.	For what purpose.	Present annual Income.
G. Townsend, Esq.	—	Annually apprenticing a boy . . .	£ 15 0 0
Ditto	—	Endowing Lady Capel's School . . .	20 0 0
Rev. W. Stansby.	1704	Annually apprenticing a boy . . .	28 19 10
Lady Capel.	1719	Free School for boys . . .	15 0 0
G. Cox, Esq.	1727	Annually apprenticing a boy . . .	4 0 0
Miss Wells.	1782	Annually to the poor . . .	6 12 0
Date of lease at Hatherly	1794	Inmates of Fate's Alms House . . .	0 12 0
Col. Ollney.	1836	Alms Houses . . . . .	Interest of £8,000
J. H. Urquhart, Esq.	1850	Annually to the poor at Christmas . . .	Interest of £1,000
J. Ashmead, Esq.	1742	Poor of Bethel Baptist Chapel . . .	86 4 0
Darke and Ballinger.	1805	Ditto . . . . .	3 10 0
Mrs. Lloyd.	1808	Minister and General Purposes of do.	2 10 6
E. Ransford, Esq.	1813	Manager, Deacon, Minister of do	Interest of £400
B. Friend, Esq.	1815	Minister of Cheltenham Chapel . . .	Interest of £200
H. Bromfield, Esq.	1837	Ditto . . . . .	Ditto

The number of public charities and benevolent institutions in the town are truly remarkable. From so many that reflect honour and credit to these benevolent supporters we select for description and illustration, the General Hospital, and Female Orphan Asylum.

#### THE HOSPITAL.

The Cheltenham General Hospital and Dispensary is judiciously located in a most healthy spot in Sandford fields. It was erected by voluntary contributions, and cost nearly £9,000. The first stone of this structure was laid January 25, 1848, by the Right Hon. Lord Dunally. It is a noble building, designed in the Classic style by Mr. D. J. Humphris, and its external appearance and internal arrangements are admirably adapted for the purposes intended. On the ground floor, the front entrance is beneath a portico supported by four fluted Ionic columns, and approached by nine steps. The entrance hall is of noble dimensions, 24ft 10 by 16ft. It is separated from the corridor by two pillars. The Board Room is 24ft by 16ft. In each wing there is a ward 42ft by 21ft 6 inches and 14ft high. In the front of the east wing is the museum, 33ft by 21ft. In each of the front wings is a ward 33ft by 21ft. At the back of the centre, is a

place for three cisterns, one filled with 800 gallons of hot water, another with 300 gallons of hill water, and a third filled, by means of a force pump, with 3,000 gallons of water. The whole of the apartments are supplied with gas lights, and hot and cold water. The number of gas lamps in the house is 35, and the meter is of sufficient size to register one million feet of gas. The gardens around the Hospital are two acres in extent. In a work by Sir George Ballinghall, M.D., F.R.S.E., Regius Professor of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, and Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, after stating that his observations had extended to numerous hospitals in Europe, Asia, and Africa, as well as to a recent examination of the principal establishments of the kind in the United Kingdom, he says—"In adverting to the exterior form or ground plan of larger Hospitals, one very commonly adopted is that of a body with wings projecting from either extremity, somewhat in the form of the letter H. To this there seems to be no reasonable objection. It answers in a great measure the important desideratum of giving the air free access to the Building" (which he had previously shewn was not the case when the plan was quadrangular.) 'It is a form to be observed in some of the best Hospitals in the country, and was successfully adopted in several of the Military or Barrack Hospitals erected during the war. Of this form of Hospital I have selected for publication, from numerous others in my possession, a sketch of the General Hospital at Cheltenham, and this for two reasons. First, because it is one of the neatest, most commodious, and compact little Hospitals with which I am acquainted; and, secondly, because I consider it a good example of how much may be done in the way of Hospital Building with a very moderate sum. The whole has, it appears, been erected for £7,695, including an extensive system of drainage, and the front wall and gates of the large enclosure around it. This building I consider highly creditable to the Architect, Mr. Humphris." The total cost was £8,395. The wings have separate staircases; that on the west side is appropriated to males, that on the east to females, the centre of the house being occupied by the officers of the establishment. The bath-rooms are convenient, with a constant supply of hot and cold water, both of which requisites in the sick-room are also

laid on in the different wards. The architect, Mr. D. J. Humphris, provided at his own cost "the lifts," by which provisions and other necessities are carried by machinery from the basement to the upper floors.

The Establishment of a General Hospital in the town is of modern origin, and was effected on May 3, 1813. On March 8, of that year, a Vestry Meeting was convened and adjourned to the Assembly Rooms, to March 9 following. At these meetings it was unanimously resolved to found a Dispensary. At the first, the Rev. Dr. Foulkes, the incumbent, presided, and at the latter, Lord Ashtown. Drs. Jameson and Parry were the first Physicians, and Messrs. Seager, and Newell, the first Surgeons. The benevolent undertaking proved a great boon; a Casualty Ward was afterwards added, and in 1839, the institution became a General Hospital. Progress has marked its career from the first; the premises used, having been too small for the number of patients, it was successively removed to Winchomb-street, North-street, the late "Free Press Office," the Female Training School, High Street, until ultimately the noble building now termed "The General Hospital," was erected. Thus, from the day of its foundation, prosperity has marked its career. Its advantages have been duly appreciated by the more affluent, as the following list of benefactors strikingly manifests. On the passing of the Cheltenham and Oxford Railway Act, that Company paid as compensation, the sum of £6,117 12s. 6d. for the premises formerly used as the Hospital in the High-street, it being proposed that the line should pass through them. This event led to the erection of the new edifice.

According to the report issued in 1861, £1,000 had been anonymously contributed by a lady towards erecting the chapel, the subscriptions for the year amounted to £1,375 16s. 6d., the donations to £412, and the congregational collections to £466, the legacies to £259, dividends, &c., £214. In-patients. 547; Out-patients, 4,579.

From this it will be seen that the total average annual income is between two and three thousand pounds, while upwards of 500 In-patients are received and nearly 5,000 Out-patients, in addition to advice and medicines given at the Branch Dispensary in Oxford Passage, near the High Street. A most exquisite work of art is to be seen in the Hospital. It is a statuary representation

of the "Good Samaritan," and was erected at a cost of £600, which was raised mainly through the exertion of a deceased medical gentleman, C. Fowler, Esq.; it is the work of a Manchester artist.

## DONATIONS TO THE HOSPITAL.

*Legacies of Fifty Pounds and upwards, bequeathed since the establishment of the Institution.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Executors of the late C. Mathieson, Esq. ....	100	0	0	John Richards, Esq. ....	100	0	0
T. Tomlinson, (one moiety) ..	180	8	0	Mrs. Vaillant .....	50	0	0
Mrs. Lighthurn .....	111	0	4	Miss Gillman .....	110	3	0
P. Boissier, Esq. ....	50	0	0	William Tidd, Esq. ....	50	0	0
H. Broomfield, Esq. ....	90	0	0	Mrs. Roughton .....	90	0	0
Major Barrett .....	450	0	0	Mrs. Beaty .....	500	14	3
Lady Drake .....	207	12	10	A. Maklew, Esq. ....	200	0	0
Mrs. Bate .....	500	0	0	George Richards, Esq. ....	500	0	0
Hon. Caroline Flower .....	50	0	0	Mrs. Jane Gubbs, .....	200	0	0
Miss Collinson .....	177	1	6	Mrs. J. Farmer .....	50	0	0
John Bailey, Esq. ....	50	0	0	Miss De Lancy .....	98	11	0

*Benefactors of Fifty Pounds and upwards.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
S. Anderson, Esq. ....	145	10	0	Rev. T. Harward .....	50	0	0
Major Askew .....	52	10	0	Adraham Matherell, Esq. ....	50	0	0
A. Friend per Major Askew ..	50	0	0	Rev. Thomas F. Henney ..	52	10	0
Hon. Craven Berkeley, M.P. ..	52	10	0	W. H. Henney, Esq. ....	52	10	0
Charles Tufton Blick, Esq. ....	110	0	0	Thomas Henney, Esq. ....	100	0	0
Sir William Burdett, Bart. ....	52	10	0	Mrs. Henney .....	210	0	0
Robert Capper, Esq. ....	1050	0	0	Miss Hincks .....	100	0	0
Mrs. Capper .....	621	0	0	E. Holland, Esq. ....	70	0	0
Rev. D. Capper .....	100	0	0	William Ingledaw, Esq. ....	110	10	0
Captain Carpenter, B.N. ....	753	10	0	Francis Jerrard, Esq. ....	52	10	0
Captain Carr .....	52	10	0	Thomas Jones, Esq. ....	52	10	0
Rev. Francis Close .....	52	10	0	Mrs. Morgan Hill .....	121	0	0
J. Clutterbuck, Esq. ....	75	0	0	John Mortlock, Esq. ....	262	10	0
Miss Cook .....	50	0	0	Thomas Parr, Esq. ....	50	0	0
Rev. R. Duke .....	52	10	0	Captain Parr .....	50	0	0
R. Ellison, Esq. ....	50	0	0	Thomas Pilkington, Esq. ....	52	10	0
Earl Fitzhardinge .....	151	5	0	Messrs. Pitt and Co. ....	105	0	0
George Freeman, Esq. ....	50	0	0	Proprietors of Berkshire & Gloucestershire Provincial Assurance Company ..	107	17	8
Thomas Fulljames, Esq. ....	52	10	6	R. A. Rosenhagen, Esq. ....	73	10	0
John Gardner, Esq. ....	200	0	0	Hon. Lord de Saumarez ...	79	15	0
Mrs. John Gardner .....	55	5	0	Hon. Lord Sherborne .....	105	0	0
Samuel Gist Gist, Esq. ....	70	0	0	R. C. Sherwood, Esq. ....	52	10	0
The Duke of Gloucester ...	104	10	0	Mrs. Henry Thompson ...	50	0	0
W. Penn Gaskell, Esq. ....	105	0	0	Henry Norwood Trye, Esq. ....	52	10	0
Rev. F. D. Gilby .....	52	10	0				
C. L. Harford, Esq. ....	52	10	0				

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
John Turner, Esq. ....	75	10	0	John Walker, Esq. ....	55	0	0
Rev. Dr. Warneford ....	100	0	0	Mrs. Shipley .....	50	0	0
Joseph Wilkinson, Esq. ...	84	0	0	Miss Velley .....	100	0	0
G. E. Williams, Esq. ....	52	10	0	J. Beman, Esq. ....	55	0	0
Earl Fitzhardinge, costs received for a libel from the proprietor of the Cheltenham Chronicle.....	50	0	0	Rev. F. D. Gilby.....	50	0	0
S. Anderson, Esq., House in Townsend-street, and	500	0	0	T. J. Welles, Esq. (part of legacy).....	100	0	0
Mrs. Colonel Lennon .....	250	0	0	Miss Baron .....	50	0	0
Mrs. Crew .....	500	0	0	T. Champion Esq .....	52	10	0
G. Harvey, Esq. ....	52	10	1	T. Barker, Esq .....	100	0	0
R. K. Lumb, Esq .....	50	0	0	Mrs. Capper.....	1000	0	0
W. E. Lawrence, Esq.....	100	0	0	Mrs. General Campbell...	55	0	0
				J. Wilkinson .....	300	0	0
				Mrs. Masin .....	500	0	0
				W.S.....	150	0	0

#### FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The patronage of Royalty has not been confined to the Mineral Waters of the place, but has extended itself to benevolent objects. The Female Orphan Asylum was founded by the kindly aid and influence of Queen Charlotte in 1806. This asylum clothes, boards, and educates upwards of forty children who are trained to various trades suitable to their taste and abilities. Orphans, and half-orphans, are alike eligible for election, at the age of eight, and remain until they are fifteen years of age. The best testimony to the usefulness of the Institution is to be found in the fact that hundreds of good domestic servants and others moving in a higher sphere of life, have received their instruction at the Asylum.

The present elegant and commodious Gothic edifice in Winchcomb Street, was erected for the use of the orphans in 1833. There have been several benefactions to this excellent Institution by residents and friends. In 1836, Colonel Ollney bequeathed £500, and in 1845, Mrs. Sarah Bate bequeathed £500. The income, which is derivable from voluntary contributions, averages about £600 annually. Specimens of the Orphans' skillful needlework was, in 1842, presented to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who was so pleased with the present, as to become one of the patrons of the Asylum. T. Barber, Esq., the Secretary, who died in 1860, bequeathed a legacy of £300. The total annual income, as reported in January, 1861, was £1,001 2s.

## CHAPTER XXII.

**Modern Churches.**

**T**HE inhabitants of Cheltenham have reason to congratulate themselves on the number of Churches, and the variety and order of architecture which they severally display. The erection of eleven new churches in a space of thirty years, at once shows the very rapid increase which has taken place in the number of inhabitants. We shall here describe these edifices in the order of date at which the congregations were founded.

**TRINITY CHURCH.**

The rapid increase of the population of the town made it expedient to find additional church accommodation. Application was made to Government for the loan of £4,000, and to the trustees of the rectory for the advancement of a like sum, towards the erection of a new church. The first-mentioned sum was, however, never obtained; and as a consequence the undertaking was for a long time delayed. In this crisis, Lord Sherborne, the then Lord of the Manor, nobly came forward, and advanced the required sum, secured upon the rental of a certain number of pews. The interest of his lordship was purchased by J. A. Gardner, Esq., the present Lord of the Manor. This, the first modern church erected in the town, was commenced in 1820; and on April 11, 1823, the ceremony of consecration was performed by the Hon. Dr. Ryder, then Bishop of Gloucester, and afterwards of Coventry and Lichfield. The undertaking was accomplished at an expense of £10,000, from a design by Mr. Underwood. The edifice, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is 74 feet in length, 51 feet in breadth, and will seat 900 persons. Its location was judicious, being placed at the top of Portland Street, adjoining the Pittville estate, and where no other place of worship was near. It is a most substantial building of stone, in the Gothic style, and over the principal entrance is a square tower, surmounted by eight light pinnacles.



The interior is divided into three aisles and two spacious galleries. The organ was erected by Mr. Hale, of Promenade House. The space beneath the church, as well as the ground around, have been used as a place of interment, and a large number of influential residents and visitors have been buried therein,—the walls of the edifice within and the space without being nearly covered with memorials of the dead. The sum of £500 having been raised by the sale of the vaults, was invested in government security as a repair fund. The income of the minister is secured by the deed of consecration upon the rents of certain pews. The Rev. J. Browne, LL.B., the late respected minister, was presented with a residence called "The Hayes," delightfully situate in Pittville Circus, by the congregation of this church, as a testimonial of their respect and esteem. He died in 1857, and was deservedly honoured with a public funeral. A monument to his memory was erected, by subscription, and placed in front of the church, where he had so successfully and faithfully ministered the greater period of his life.

This church, like the parent edifice, has always been fully attended. It is quite inadequate in size to meet the requirements of the present numerous flock that assembles to worship, and which has increased in numbers since the settlement of the Rev. G. Cathrop, M.A., the successor to Mr. Browne. The Very Rev. the Dean of Carlisle, prior to his being presented with the incumbency of the parish, was curate at this church. The congregation support a day school, and many benevolent institutions connected with missionary and temperance movements. According to published statements, £1200 per annum have been subscribed by the attendants of Trinity Church for charitable objects. The tabular statement of the sums collected for the year ending January 1861, show £1227 8s. 6½d.

"The Rev. John Browne was born at Riverstown, county of Cork, the family seat. He was educated at Eton, and proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was a Fellow Commoner, and took his degree. For nine years he was curate of Castle Bromwich, Warwickshire, and after leaving it, came to Cheltenham, when he was appointed to Trinity Church, where he remained until the time of his decease. His congregation some years ago presented him with £1600, collected so delicately and quietly, that he was not aware anything was going on till the

morning of presentation. He had for a long time been defraying church expenses from his private purse, and the congregation collected the above sum to repay him, and wished the surplus (about £800) to be devoted towards building a larger house for his increasing family. East Hayes was thus originated." (*Cheltenham Examiner*, Aug. 5, 1857.)

#### ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

The second modern church erected in the town was dedicated to St. John, and the site chosen was the top of Berkeley Street. It was built at the joint expense of the Rev. W. S. Phillips, B.D., of Gloucester, and the Rev. J. Moxon. It was consecrated by the Right Rev. Dr. Bethel, Bishop of Gloucester, January 22, 1829, and will accommodate 800 persons. It is built in the classic style; the entrance is ornamented with two lofty pillars, over which, in the centre, is a tower containing a public clock. In a gallery at the entrance doors is an excellent organ. A Day School room is situate near the edifice, and was erected by the congregation. Several neat mural tablets adorn the church within. St. John's Church was designed by Mr. J. Papworth, the author of several eminent works on architecture and landscape gardening. A fine painting is situate near the altar. The musical department has long enjoyed a high celebrity, and full choral services are performed with great taste and ability. Attached to the edifice are School Rooms for daily gratuitous instruction. The last-elected minister was the Rev. G. Roberts, M.A., formerly vicar of Monmouth, then incumbent of St. Anne, Limehouse, and Lecturer of St. Andrews, Holborn. He is also known as an author, and among other works he published, "The Life of a Bishop."

#### ST. JAMES'S CHURCH.

In Suffolk Square, was commenced in 1829, a new church, which was consecrated on October 5, 1830, by the Right Rev. Dr. Monk, Bishop of Gloucester, and dedicated to St. James. It is a light and elegant edifice in the Gothic style; and the interior, which is surrounded by galleries, displays two rows of lofty Gothic pillars and arches, terminating with a coved ceiling. The church, which is estimated to seat 1400 persons, was built by shares, and 400 sittings were set apart for the support of the

minister. The organ cost £700, and was built by Gray, of London; and in consequence of its power, several musical festivals on a large scale have been in past years held in the church. Over the large Gothic window, at the principal entrance, is a public clock. In Norwood Street is a school room founded by the congregation. Tablets to the memory of some of the deceased worshippers have been erected in the church. Mr. Jenkins, a resident architect, was the designer of St. James's Church.

The congregation is a wealthy and influential one, as is evident by the amount of the collections made for benevolent and religious objects. The Rev. S. Chamberlayne was the last elected incumbent. His predecessor, the Rev. F. D. Gilby, filled the office for a period of fourteen years until his retirement in 1857. The annual statement of sums collected in this edifice for the year ending January 1861, was £1077 8s. 10½d.

#### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

St. Paul's Church is a successful attempt at adapting the classic style of architecture to religious buildings. This noble building was built after designs by Mr. Forbes, the architect of Pittville Spa, and was intended to accommodate 1600 persons. The front is a fine elevation with lofty pillars, and is well displayed by having a large space of ornamental ground before it. From a pediment over the entrance rises a tower surmounted by a dome, at the base of which a public clock is placed. This church was consecrated July 12, 1831, by the Right Rev. Dr. Monk, Bishop of Gloucester, and contains a large number of free sittings. It was erected partly by contributions and partly by grant from the Church Building Commissioners. The formation of a congregation in this particular locality was owing to the zeal of the Rev. Sir Henry Thompson, Bart., who laboured as the minister gratuitously for two years after the edifice was completed, and also presented the organ now used. His mother, Lady Thompson, gave the clock; and her ladyship also at the same time presented clocks to the churches of St. John and St. James. Spacious school rooms for infants and children of more mature age, are erected near the edifice, in connection with the Normal College. The incumbent is the Rev. C. H. Bromby, the Principal of the Normal College.

# CHRIST CHURCH.

The largest and handsomest of the local proprietary churches is Christ Church, which displays its lofty exterior on the summit of an elevated ground at Lansdown. It is a splendid edifice, and exhibits the style of Gothic architecture prevalent in England during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. It measures in length 130 feet, and is 107 feet in breadth. The tower, an exquisite specimen of the ornamental Gothic, is 174 feet in height, and is a conspicuous object from upland situations, both in this and the adjoining counties. The pulpit is of stone, carved in harmony with the style of the interior. This noble pile was erected after designs by F. Jearrad, Esq., and no expense was spared to render it complete and attractive. In the gallery at the tower entrance, is a fine-toned organ. This church was built by shares, and the living, after the expiration of 40 years from the date of erection, devolves to the incumbent of the parish. Christ Church is estimated to contain 2,000 sittings, and was built in 1840. A clock was added after the completion of the edifice, which, from its elevated position in the tower, may be seen and heard at a considerable distance.

The foundation stone of this beautiful structure was laid in October 1837, by the then Incumbent of the parish—Dr. Close. The following inscription was engraved upon the plate affixed to the stone :—

"The first stone of Christ Church, in the hamlet of Alstone, in the parish of Cheltenham, built and endowed according to the 5 Geo. IV, cap. 103, sec. 5. The Rev. Francis Close, A.M., Perpetual Curate of Cheltenham; the Rev. William Carns, A.M., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; Pearson Thompson, Esq., Hatherley Court, Cheltenham—Life Trustees. Was laid by the said Francis Close, on the 10th October, 1837. R. W. and C. Jearrad, Architects."

School rooms, in the early English style, are situate near the church. Mural tablets of a well-executed character adorn the interior of the sacred edifice. The Rev. Canon Boyd was minister until his appointment to the living of Paddington. He was succeeded by the Rev. J. Fenn in 1859. The returns of the amount subscribed by this congregation annually average £1300, and in 1854 it was as much as £2,007 13s. 1½d. After two sermons on behalf of the Hospital in February, 1859, the handsome sum of £95 18s. 10d. was collected. In 1860, the contributions amounted to £1377 17s. 7d.

## ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH.

In a line with Great Norwood Street, on the Park Estate, a church, dedicated to St. Philip, was raised in 1844. It is in the early Gothic style, and the architectural harmony is well preserved throughout. It is a neat structure, and a tower, surmounted by four pinnacles, rises to an appropriate height. The interior has a neat appearance, and the walls are enlivened by many handsomely-executed marble tablets, and among the number are several to the memory of the Burdett family, relatives to the rich heiress, Miss Angela Burdett Coutts. The ground around the edifice is set apart for burials, and a number of tomb and flat stone mementos of the dead have been reared. Connected with the congregation is a day school, carried on in a room, erected in the early Gothic style, in the Leckhampton Road. Mr. Shellard was the architect of St. Philip's Church. The Rev. J. E. Riddle, M.A., late minister of this church, was an eminent author as well as divine. He published a Latin and English Dictionary, and many other popular scholastic works. He resided at Tudor Lodge, near to the church,—a unique specimen of the domestic Gothic style of architecture.

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

The revival of a taste for ecclesiastical architecture is a gratifying sign of the times; and our own locality has set an example well worthy of imitation, in the erection of St. Peter's Church, in the Tewkesbury Road. This successful attempt at representing the peculiarities of a style prevalent in England ere the Conqueror's race had ceased, was executed by resident artists—a fact highly creditable. The structure belongs to the Norman Romanesque order, and consists of a chancel, nave, north and south transepts, with a central circular tower and lanthorn. There is an organ chamber on the north, and sacristy on the south, abutting on the chancel, which terminates with a semi-circular ground apse, pierced with fine narrow single-light windows. The north-west porch to the nave has a richly-carved entrance; and at the north-west angle of the nave is an ornamental and characteristic bell turret, which serves as a staircase to the west gallery. The principal feature of the church consists in the construction of the large central circular tower, open the entire height—90 feet, which with its elegant

triforium, produces internally an imposing effect. The tower is supported by the domed spandrels, and the whole weight rests upon the four massive corner pillars. The roofs are open, and constructed with rafters and principals. The chancel is elevated on six steps, and paved with encaustic tiles: it is fitted up with a massive oak communion table,—a handsome copy of the Glastonbury monastic chair being placed stall-wise on each side of it. The communion rails afford an imitation of Norman oak carving. The pulpit is of Painswick stone, and has sunk arcading on three sides. The font is, with the exception of the designs, a copy of the one in Lincoln Cathedral. It consists of a square bowl, supported by a central pier, surrounded by four disengaged shafts at the angles. The designs on the panels are—The baptism of our Lord; the entrance of Noah and his family into the ark; the healing of the sick at the Pool of Bethesda; and a pilgrim journeying to the heavenly city. The windows are of stained glass—the subject of that in the east end being “The Last Supper.” The brackets for the branches which support the gas-lights from the walls are extremely beautiful. The architect was Mr. S. W. Daukes, of London and Cheltenham, and the builder the late Mr. T. Haines. The communion table and chairs were executed by Messrs. Urch and Seabright, and the communion plate by Messrs. Martin, Baskett and Martin. The foundation stone of the edifice was laid on Sept. 6, 1847, by Sir W. Jones, Bart., of Norfolk; and the consecration took place March 22, 1849. The cost of erection amounted to £4,630. The church, which is capable of accommodating 1050 persons, is endowed with £50 per annum from the Church Extension Society, £100 per annum from Government, and £60 from the late Miss Jane Cook, together with a piece of land in the Swindon Road for the poor of the district.

The locality in which the structure is situate was constituted August 8, 1845, by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, a distinct parish for ecclesiastical purposes, under the title of “St. Peter’s District.” The Rev. W. Hodgson, A.M., was elected the first incumbent,—an office which will not be affected either by the voidance or death of the incumbent of the Parish Church, St. Peter’s district being complete and distinct for religious purposes. The ground around the edifice has been devoted to interments, and is the only modern churchyard besides that

belonging to Trinity Church, consecrated within the limits of the parish.

In 1858, the three centre perpendicular lights at the west end of St. Peter's Church, were filled with stained glass, to the memory of Miss Hodgson, the daughter of the incumbent. They represent scenes in the life of St. Peter, and the whole effect is peculiarly chaste and ecclesiastical, forming an additional ornament to the beautiful interior of the church. In 1859, the curate of the church was presented with a testimonial in the shape of a handsome time piece, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to the Rev. George Pruen Griffiths, M.A., by friends and parishioners of St. Peter's, Cheltenham, as a small token of affectionate regard, and their high estimation of a faithful ministry which, during two and a half years, he had exercised amongst them.—June 14, 1859."

#### ST. LUKE'S CHURCH.

The National Schoolroom in the Bath Road having been licensed as a place of worship, according to the rites of the Church of England, was set apart for the celebration of Divine service on Sundays. By this means a congregation was formed, so numerous as to require a larger building, and the erection of St. Luke's Church on a site of land as near as could be procured to the schoolroom was set on foot. The edifice is designed after the early English style, and a spiral tower rises from the centre. It is situated in Sir Matthew Wood's Road, and but a short distance from the Proprietary College. It will hold one thousand persons. The seats are, to a great extent, free—a sufficient number being let to raise a salary for the minister. It was erected in 1855, at a cost of £4,000. The interior well develops the early Gothic style of architecture. The Rev. W. F. Handcock was the first incumbent, elected at the erection of the edifice.

#### THE TEMPORARY CHURCH.

The Parish Church having been for some time closed, during the progress of the works which were carried on in consequence of the Order in Council, it became necessary to seek some other edifice to accommodate the many worshippers who regularly assembled therein. The Temporary Church was consequently

erected in 1859, on the site of the Clarence Hotel, and but a short distance from the parent edifice. It is a most successful attempt to meet an exigency, and a passer-by who knew nothing of its history, would not suppose that it was intended for a mere temporary structure. The material is corrugated iron, fluted, and painted stone colour. It will seat 1500 persons, and is 132 in length by 69 feet in breadth. The interior has a very light appearance, and is fitted up with all the usual accompaniments of a church. The organ is placed in a gallery at the west end. This remarkable moveable structure was completed on Nov. 1, 1859.

#### ST. MARK'S CHURCH.

The freehold land estate on the Gloucester Road, near the Midland Station, comprises a district of 2000 acres. The number of inhabitants located upon it without the means of a place wherein to worship, attracted attention, and a subscription was set on foot for the purpose of erecting a church. The appeal proving successful, the foundation stone of St. Mark's Church, was laid on Sept. 20, 1860, by the Rev. W. Carus, M.A., one of the trustees of the Parish Rectory. The edifice is on an elevated situation, and is designed to represent the pointed Gothic style of the fourteenth century. J. Middleton, Esq., was the architect; and the estimate of the cost was £3,125. The Rev. G. P. Griffiths was the first appointed incumbent. The congregation will have the advantage of a resident clergyman by the erection of a parsonage house, and also the establishment of a school—a most desirable object in this daily increasing district. The schoolroom was opened on Aug. 5, 1861, and the church was consecrated by the Right. Rev. Dr. Thomson, Bishop of Gloucester, on Feb. 8, 1862.

The Church itself is designed to accommodate a congregation of 517 persons, all seated, and of this number 267 sittings are free. It consists of a chancel, nave, and tower, though the latter, owing to a want of funds, has not yet been erected. The chancel is 33 feet by 20, with vestry on the western side, and communion facing the congregation. The nave is 74 ft. by 44, and 48 feet in height; the pulpit and reading desk being placed on either side at its junction with the chancel. The roofs are arched and open, and the appearance of the stained timbers,



with the circular windows of coloured glass beneath, gives to the interior a very graceful and pleasing effect. The pulpit, reading desk, and font are of stone. The builder was Mr. J. Acock; the sub-contractor for the interior fittings, Mr. J. Freeman, and for the plumbing and glazing, Mr. Bourne. The funds for the construction have been supplied mainly by voluntary contributions and church collections in the town and neighbourhood. The Church Building Society have, we believe, made a "grant in aid" of £500; while the incumbent, the Rev. G. P. Griffiths, has contributed the munificent sum of £1100, of which £500 was towards the building, and £600 towards the endowment fund.

In noticing the erection of this, the last new church in the parish, we must also direct attention to the fact that no church has existed in the hamlet of Arle, which adjoins Allstone and Westall, since the days of the Protestant Reformation, as the following account will narrate. The erection of St. Mark's Church therefore meets the spiritual wants of an increasing neighbourhood, which have hitherto been for centuries neglected.

Arle Church formerly existed at the adjacent village of Arle—an ancient hamlet of Cheltenham, and now part of the parish. The discoveries of antiquarians, both from documentary evidence and ecclesiastical relics, prove the former existence of this ancient edifice, of which no memorial now stands.

In the valuable registries of Cirencester Abbey, collected and published in Prynne's MSS., Arle is designated Alra, and described as having a church, which "was given to the mother church of Chiltham (Cheltenham) by Walter de Bruscella, whose heirs continued long after at Leckington (Leckhampton)."

Exhumations of recumbent effigies and flat grave stones of the Crusader period, as well as portions of stone-work of the Norman style, have occurred during the past century. Among the portions of the old church which have been found was a massive beam, bearing the sacred monogram in Norman-Latin, and the date of 1250. This was probably the support of the rood-loft, which was placed between the chancel and the nave; and the discovery with so early an inscription, proves the very remote period at which the structure must have been reared. "In various parts of the village, portions of stone effigies, bearing evident marks of high antiquity, have been excavated at different

times ; relics of the Norman order of architecture and portions of human bones are of frequent occurrence." (Snell).

Arle Church no doubt was used as a temple of worship until the period of the Reformation, for it is incidentally alluded to in ecclesiastical valuations up to that period. Arle was, in the monastic era, a place of importance, and gave name to a family of wealth and influence. There is an estate in the hamlet called Arle Court, of very great antiquity. For a long period it was occupied by a family who derived their name from the place. The last on the male side of this ancient family was John Arle, who died in the reign of Henry VIII. The daughter of this John Arle married Robert Greville, who afterwards sold the estate in the second year of Henry VIII., to William Greville, his brother, one of the most learned and illustrious judges of that period, whose remains are interred near the communion table of our parish church. By the marriage of the daughter of Judge Greville, the estate reverted to the Lygon family, and in like manner to Sir Fleetwood Dormer, who married Catherine, daughter of John Lygon, who was only son of Richard Lygon, of Maddersfield, in Worcestershire, by his second wife, Margaret, daughter of John Talbot, Esq., of the Shrewsbury family. The estate shortly afterwards devolved to Judge Dormer, and again to Mrs. Catherine Dormer, of whom it was purchased by the Hon. John Yorke. It was next possessed by T. Packer Butt, Esq., of Minchinhampton, whose family still hold it. What now forms a portion of the Arle Court Estate was, at a very early period, a separate manor, the property of an important ecclesiastical establishment. In those days when convents and Catholic temples first existed in England, each devotee strove to provide for their support and maintenance by bequests of various kinds. The "Lanthony Priory" was endowed by Walter de Hereford, and among the land bequeathed was the manor of Redgrove at Arle; the Priory held possession of the property until the dissolution of monastic institutions by Henry VIII., at which period it was rented by William Lygon "for six shillings reserved rents."

An ancient and shaded avenue of trees still exists near Arle Court. There is an air of antiquity about the spot, and if we can, in imagination, add to the scene, the once Norman church, we may form some idea of the primitive appearance of Alra.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

## Dissenting Places of Worship.

CHELTENHAM was the abode of persons holding Nonconforming sentiments at a very early period. In the 17th century there were three families in the town who represented the three denominations of Friends, English Presbyterians (Unitarians), and Baptists. These were the Masons (Friends) who occupied the property since converted into the Old Wells; the Sturmys (Unitarians), who owned the Manor of Swindon, and property in the town; and the Ashmeads (Baptists), who were also considerable property-holders. Judging from the bequests which have been made, it is evident that these early Dissenters were persons of influence, and it is not therefore a matter of surprise that a Friends' meeting house should have been erected so early as 1660, a Unitarian Chapel in 1662, and a Baptist Chapel in 1700, the bequests belonging to which last-named place, at the present day, are nearly £100 per annum. With the increase of population Dissenters have also multiplied, and the town is now adorned with many elegant places of worship, as we shall endeavour to detail.

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL.

The Congregational Church, in Winchcomb Street, is one of the handsomest structures belonging to Dissenters in the town. It is of the Decorated Gothic, and was built from designs by Mr. S. Onley, architect. This elegant building was opened for divine worship on June 8, 1852. It is estimated to have cost £8,000, and will seat 1200.

The Congregationalists, or, as they are historically styled, Independents, were among the earliest bodies formed upon Nonconformist principles in the county. Although so early as the year 1699 they existed at Marshfield, and places contiguous, yet there is no account of their having been known at Cheltenham prior to 1814. In that year, and for some time after-

wards, several young candidates for the ministry regularly conducted worship according to the practice of the Congregationalists, in the old chapel, near Albion Street. In 1817, Highbury chapel, in Grosvenor Street, was built by Mrs. Wall, of Lewes, Sussex. The first minister was the Rev. J. Snow, then of the Baptist persuasion, for whose especial use the edifice was erected. At the secession of Mr. Snow, the building was sold by auction, and was purchased by the late Rev. Jenkin Thomas, who afterwards sold it for £1,800 to the late T. Wilson, Esq., and the Rev. John Burder, who invested it in the hands of five different trustees for the use of Congregationalists, by whom it was opened in 1827. The number of worshippers at first was not numerous, but, like the other local nonconforming societies, the Independents have now increased so much as to establish branch chapels in connection with the parent one. The Rev. W. Campbell was the stated minister of Highbury Chapel from 1832 to 1838, and was followed by the Rev. S. Martin, now of Westminster, under whose ministry the number of attendants greatly increased. During Mr. Martin's pastorate the chapel debt was cleared off, school-rooms were built and their cost defrayed.

The Rev. A. M. Brown, LL.D., was the next pastor, and commenced his duties Jan. 8, 1843. The eloquence and earnestness of this evangelical preacher soon attracted large audiences. The congregation becoming too large for Highbury Chapel, the present noble edifice was projected and completed under the auspices of the Rev. Dr. Brown, who, at the period of its opening, had completed the ninth year of his ministry, and with an increasing congregation connected therewith.

At the Congregational annual meeting, held at the Royal Old Wells in June 1861, the Rev. T. Haines alluded in congratulatory terms to the fact of the debt on the building fund of the church having been liquidated. He thought it no slight thing for that congregation to have paid £10,000 in seven years, and testified that the work had been most cheerfully and willingly accomplished. The Congregational Chapel, in the Tewkesbury Road, was originally built by the Primitive Methodists, of whom it was purchased by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Congregational Union.

*"Presentation to Dr. Brown.*—The members of the Rev. Dr.

Brown's bible class took occasion, on their assembling last Thursday at Highbury School, Grosvenor Street, to present the rev. doctor with a handsome writing desk. It was presented in the name of the members, by Messrs. Alder and Chick, and is composed of Coromandel wood, and bears a plate with the inscription ;—'To the Rev. A. M. Brown, LL.D., from the members of his bible class, March 31st, 1859.' The desk is very elegantly fitted up, with every requisite in a superior style." (*Cheltenham Examiner*, April 6, 1859).

Highbury Chapel is now used as a school-room, and the British system is adopted with success. The large numbers who have in years past been educated at this school must render its influence of a very extensive character.

"*Highbury British School, Grosvenor Street.*—This school has again been examined by J. Bowstead, Esq., Her Majesty's Inspector, who, having last year reported that the school had attained to a position of first-class efficiency, reports this year that it continues to be a well-ordered and efficient school." (*Cheltenham Examiner*, June 1861).

#### THE BAPTIST CHAPELS.

The history of the Baptist Dissenters is in fact the history of the rise, origin, and progress of the great principles of civil and religious liberty. They were identified with the first struggle that was made on behalf of the inalienable rights of conscience, and which ended in the acknowledgment of the duty of every individual to enquire for himself in matters of religion, and to maintain and practice his rightful conclusions. The Baptists, or Anabaptists, first sprung up in Germany, at the period the great Luther was laying the foundation of the Protestant Reformation. Although so early as the year 1400 there were individuals in England who denied the efficacy of infant baptism, and who were persecuted for broaching their opinions, yet it was not until the period of the commonwealth that they openly made an attempt to form Baptist societies.

The first notice of Baptists existing in Gloucestershire occurs in Calamy's life of the celebrated divine, Baxter. Baxter was driven from Kidderminster on account of his Nonconformist sentiments, and sought shelter at Gloucester, in the year 1660. His biographer says "He retired to Gloucester, where he found

a civil, courteous, and religious people. It was in this retirement that he met with the first Anabaptists that ever he was acquainted with. About a dozen young men or more, of considerable parts, had received the opinion against infant baptism and were re-baptised, and laboured to draw others unto them not far from Gloucester. The minister of the place, Mr. Winnel, being hot and impatient with them, it was thought hardened them the more. He wrote a considerable book at that time against them ; but the nation having then no great experience of the tendency of their principles, blamed Mr. Winnel for his asperity towards them." The seed which these "dozen young men" sowed, fell upon good ground, for at the passing of the Act of Uniformity, in 1662, we find that the following ejected ministers in the county embraced their principles, and ministered to Baptist congregations at the places named :—Rev. T. Jennings, at Brimpsfield ; Rev. T. Fisher, at Yanworth ; Rev. T. Frinn, at Kemply ; Rev. J. Head, at Bourton-on-the-Water ; Rev. T. Paxford, at Stroud. In addition to these may be mentioned several persons ejected at the same period from the office of master at some of the endowed free schools of the locality, and who afterwards became pastors. From the same valuable work we also learn the origin of the various divisions which exist, even at this day, among this sect. In 1661, says Calamy, "began the miseries of Gloucester ; for while the Anabaptists increased on one side, one Mr. Hart came from Herefordshire with Mr. Vaughan, a gentleman who drew many to separation ; and next came Mr. Bacon, who drew to Antimonianism." The Baptists from this period have gone on rapidly increasing in numbers, so much so that, at the present day, there scarcely is a town or even the smallest village in this extensive county in which a congregation does not exist. This fact stands prominently forth to the observation of even the most cursory visitor to our locality, and is a proof of what is to be achieved by a firm and uncompromising adherence, in the hour of trial and persecution, to the principles of religious liberty. Cheltenham had its professors of this faith at a very early period, for the resident Baptists had become sufficiently numerous in 1700 to erect a place for their religious meetings. This building, which is yet remembered by many of our old residents, had a very antiquated appearance, and was only 38 feet in length by 20 in

breadth. It stood on the site of the present Bethel Chapel, in St. James's Square; and having become exceedingly dilapidated, and too small for the increased number of professors, it was taken down in 1820, and the now spacious chapel before-named erected in its place, at the cost of £1,600. The following ministers successively served at these two original places of the Baptists:—Revs. Joseph Price, Eliezar Herring, Thomas Perks, Samuel Dunscombe, Hugh H. Williams, George Gibbs, Henry Walton and Jenkyn Thomas. After the resignation of the last-named indefatigable pastor, the pulpit was supplied by various persons, until the settlement of the Rev. Jas. Smith. In 1839, another chapel of this denomination was opened in Regent Street, and the congregation assembling there under the ministry of the Rev. W. G. Lewis, erected, in 1844, the very spacious and noble Gothic edifice now ornamenting Clarence Street. Another congregation has also been formed, so that Cheltenham has now three distinct Baptist chapels. A proof that the Baptist cause was formerly espoused by local residents of wealth and influence, is the fact that bequests were made for the benefit of the poor professors. The rent of the land on which houses in Chapel Street and other places adjacent are built, and also money in the funds were left for annual distribution amongst the poor attendants of Bethel Chapel, the particulars of which will be found in the chapter on "Endowed Charities." Ebenezer Chapel in King Street, originally built by the Wesleyans, was occupied by the Baptists; and the congregation under the pastorate of the Rev. J. Smith, before referred to, erected a new place of worship, known as Cambray Chapel, in 1855. This edifice is in the Italian style, from designs by Mr. H. Dangerfield, the Borough Surveyor. The cost of erection was £5,000. The minister, the Rev. J. Smith, is the well-known author of many devotional works. The celebrated metropolitan preacher, the Rev. C. Spurgeon, has frequently preached in this building to large audiences.

The foundation stone of Salem Chapel was laid on Nov. 8, 1843, and the building was opened on June 6, 1844. The cost of erection was £4,000. In the gallery, abutting the very beautiful window, is an excellent organ. The only local burial ground, belonging to the denomination is the one attached to Bethel Chapel.

The Baptists have branch chapels at most of the neighbouring villages; and schools and other benevolent institutions are connected with the different congregations.

#### WESLEY CHAPEL.

The first introduction of Wesleyan Methodism in Cheltenham was owing to the individual exertions of the great founder himself. The extraordinary career of John Wesley has been fortunately detailed by him in his well-known journal. From this very copious work we learn that Mr. Wesley first visited Cheltenham on Aug. 4, 1744. The spa waters were just then becoming famous, and the place was emerging from its obscure and village-like character, and attracting the attention of the titled and wealthy. At this period the only Dissenting chapels in the town were—the Baptist Chapel, Friends' Meeting-house, and the Unitarian Chapel, each of which, from its antiquity, was exceedingly small and dilapidated. The venerable founder of Methodism could not avail himself of either of these places, so he resorted to the Market Place, a rude structure, open on all sides, and supported by stone pillars, which occupied the front of the present Plough Hotel. "Here," says Mr. Wesley, "it being the season for drinking the waters, I addressed one of the largest audiences that ever assembled there. The footmen in livery created a disturbance; but upon my speaking to them, they were attentive." This visit is also mentioned in "The Life of the Countess of Huntingdon," wherein it is stated that Mr. Wesley collected the audience as they were coming out of the Parish Church, and afterwards harangued them. It appears that his preaching had then little weight with the inhabitants; but, nothing daunted at his first reception, on October 25th, in the same year, he paid a second visit, preaching from the text, "By grace ye are saved," which, however, was equally unsuccessful; for, he says, "the company seemed just as much to understand what I said as if I had been talking Greek and Latin." He went the same day to the adjacent village of Gotherington, where he had a most intelligent auditory; and it is worthy of note, that Mr. Wesley preached several times at that place, and expresses himself highly pleased with the attention which he met with. At the present day Gotherington—~~isolated and obscure as it is~~—is still a Dissenting station.



It was not until twenty-two years afterwards that he again attempted to disseminate his tenets in this town, and he then appears to have been fortunate enough to obtain the use of a dwelling house for the purpose. He made this visit on March 17, 1766, and appears somewhat pleased at the result. He says, "At ten, I preached at Cheltenham. Here I was in a strait. The house would not hold half the people, and the wind was keen enough. I preached in the open air, and I did not observe any, rich or poor, go away until I had completed." This last-mentioned date may be said to commence the history of Methodism in this town. It appears that converts were then made, one of whom opened his dwelling house for meetings. That such must have been the case is evident, from the fact that Mr. Wesley records a visit in the October following in these words;—"I visited the little society, and found them quite free from bigotry or prejudice." On Jan. 16, 1768, in noticing another visit, Mr. Wesley remarks:—"About ten I preached at Cheltenham—a quiet and comfortable place, though it would not have been so if either the rector or the Ana-baptist preacher had prevented." This great man did not again visit our town until sixteen years afterwards: this was on March 17, 1784, when his audience was but small, and to use his own words, "cold and dead enough." This was his last visit, for he was now 81 years of age! but he lived seven years afterwards, engaged to the last in his favourite and laudable pursuit. Thus, at various times, during a period of forty years, Mr. Wesley broached his sentiments to this then humble, but now highly favoured and populous town. The converts to the cause, about the period of their founder's decease, rented the small chapel which formerly existed near Albion Street. Here, amidst much ridicule and persecution, they occasionally met for the purpose of public worship, for strengthening and consoling each other, and for general religious improvement. A few years afterwards the ministerial office was filled by Mr. Oliver Watts, a bookseller, who had then settled in the town. The population, through the fame of the mineral waters, had now increased to full 20,000, and bigotry having become greatly abated, the congregation so far improved that it was deemed necessary to erect a suitable temple for religious worship. After much perseverance and many trials a subscription was set on foot, and in 1812 the

foundation stone of a chapel was laid in King Street, and in the following year it was opened for public worship, and named "Ebenezer." This temple in point of size formed a striking contrast to the one wherein the Wesleyans first assembled; but such had been the great acquisitions since that period to their body, that even the King Street Chapel was found too small for the congregation. Another chapel was accordingly built, forming an auxiliary to the above, in the Bath Road, besides various others in the neighbouring villages. But even these were in time found to be also inadequate, and consequently the present Wesley Chapel, in St. George's Street, was built in 1839. The foundation stone was laid on Oct. 2, in that year, and the chapel was opened Aug. 21. This edifice is a truly noble, lofty, and spacious structure, supplied with a powerful organ, and surrounded with a large burial-ground. In 1846, another chapel was erected in Norwood Street, near to the previous one, and called "Bethesda." The Primitive Methodists erected a place of worship in the Tewkesbury Road, which is now the property of the Congregationalists. Bethany Chapel, in Regent Street, was built by the Association Methodists in 1838.

In some of the early numbers of the *Arminian Magazine*, in the *Methodist Magazine*, and in various biographical sketches which appeared during the life-time of Wesley, are notices illustrative of the spread of Methodism in this town and county, and which confirm the account now given. The first time ministers belonging to this denomination were sent into this county was by order of a Conference held in London in 1779, when three were appointed. The first local chapel erected was at Gloucester, and it was built by a vote of a Conference held at Bristol in 1786, although at this time there were only three stated ministers in the entire county. This is an early illustration of that zeal for which this body has always been famed.

#### COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON'S CHAPEL.

The late Robert Capper, Esq., a magistrate of the town, was proverbial for his benevolence. The chapel in North Place is a monument of his disinterestedness, it having been erected at his sole expense in 1816. It was first occupied by the Rev. J. Snow, then a Baptist minister, and a seceder from the Established Church. In 1819, Mr. Capper presented the building to the

trustees of the late Countess of Huntingdon; and the services were conducted in succession by ministers sent from the College at Chesham in Hertfordshire. The front elevation is of stone, with Gothic sash windows. The building is 67 feet long, and 47 feet wide, and will contain 800 persons. An organ is placed in the gallery over the front entrance; and the space beneath the chapel has been for many years a schoolroom. A residence for a minister is attached at the Portland Street entrance. The Rev. L. J. Wake, who has been the minister since 1836, was on Sept. 5, 1843, presented by his congregation with two pieces of plate, the testimonial bearing this inscription;—"Presented to the Rev. L. J. Wake, Sept. 5, 1843, by the members of his congregation, as a mark of esteem for his seven years' faithful labours." Sunday schools and also village stations are connected with this place of worship.

The establishment of a place of worship in the town in connection with the Countess of Huntingdon denomination, was owing to the labours of the pious founder herself. Lady Huntingdon was a frequent visitor to the town, and sent ministers at different periods to spread the evangelical truths of the gospel. In this good work she was aided by Lord Dartmouth, (then a resident of Cheltenham), who permitted her ladyship's followers to celebrate Divine worship in his own dwelling house. Lady Huntingdon commenced her work of love in the town so early as the year 1751, now upwards of a century since. In her memoir by the Rev. A. H. New, it is said:—"The Countess had been to Cheltenham several times, and expressed a hope to be enabled to pay attention to this interesting field of labour. Soon after the establishment of her College, the Gloucester Association requested the aid of her students; and her ladyship sent some of them to preach at Cheltenham and other parts of Gloucestershire. Her ladyship had been requested to supply a chapel at Cheltenham with her students, but owing to some unforeseen circumstances she withdrew her ministers from the town. The good impressions, however, which were made were not erased from the minds of her people; and eventually in the year 1808, the foundation of a chapel was laid by Rowland Hill, on the plan of her ladyship's connexion, which was opened in the following year, and was supplied by various ministers, until the Rev. John Brown was appointed the resident pastor. In 1816,

Robert Capper, Esq., came to reside at Cheltenham, and built, at his own expense, a handsome and commodious place of worship, called Portland Chapel, which, after a short time, was vested in the hands of her ladyship's trustees. For some time this edifice was supplied by a rotation of ministers; but in the year 1834, the Rev. L. J. Wake was appointed the minister, where he still continues to discharge his duties."

#### FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE.

The very neat and substantial Meeting House, at present used by the Society of Friends, was erected in 1836. This religious body have also a cemetery in Grove Street. The original Meeting House, which adjoins the new one, was erected at Manchester Place in 1660. This building was afterwards occupied by the Unitarians, and has since been used as a schoolroom in connexion with the Church of England, and is now a private dwelling-house. It bears evident marks of having been built at an early period. Upon inspecting the interior, it will be seen that the edifice has been enlarged at three different times—a proof that the principles must have been embraced by many of the residents. The erection of a substantial and neat meeting house demonstrates that the present society are still alive to the maintenance of those principles of nonconformity and simple, unadorned Christianity, which their ancestors so ardently and disinterestedly laboured to diffuse. Cheltenham was the only place throughout the county where the first converts to the Friends were allowed to hold their meetings without being persecuted. In the Parish Church are tablets to the memory of several of the deceased Friends, proving that their principles had been formerly adopted by residents of wealth and influence. Among the early preachers at Cheltenham was William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania.

#### UNITARIAN CHAPEL.

The first planting of Unitarianism at Cheltenham was owing to the exertions of the learned John Biddle, who was a native of Wotton-under-Edge, in this county, master of the Crypt Free Grammar School at Gloucester, and translator of the Greek Testament. The persons from whose writings the life of this great man is to be gathered were his contemporaries, and his warm religious and political opponents. From them we learn

that Biddle was one of the greatest scholars of his day, and that although continually persecuted, he never ceased from disseminating his principles, both in the pulpit and the press. They speak of him as a person of "great holiness of character," and as being able to recite verbatim, either in Greek or Latin, the whole of the New Testament.

Biddle spread his sentiments throughout the county; and having been imprisoned at Gloucester for so doing, he was dismissed, in 1644, from the office of master to the Crypt School. "His disciples," as his biographers styled his converts, "continued to meet secretly; and at intervals between his various cruel imprisonments, he was enabled to visit them, and by his preaching kept alive, consoled, and confirmed their convictions." It is also said that many ministers of the Established Church, and other influential persons in office, privately imbibed his notions, and treasured up the works which he published. If the converts of Biddle then residing in Cheltenham did not at the first erect a structure wherein they might celebrate divine worship according to the dictates of their consciences, it must certainly have been directly afterwards. After Unitarianism had been thus locally preached for eighteen years, its reviver died in prison in London, in the same year (1662) that the notorious Act of Uniformity was passed, which drove 2,000 ministers from the Church of England.

The successor to Biddle in his office of schoolmaster, was the Rev. John Cooper, who, after holding it for sixteen years, was presented with the perpetual curacy of Cheltenham. Mr. Cooper was one of the number that was ejected in 1662, and directly afterwards he was elected minister of the Unitarian congregation which then existed in this town, which office he diligently discharged for twenty years, until his death, which was in 1682, at the age of sixty-two. In the ministerial office he was succeeded by the Revs. Ralph Taylor, Henry Sturmev, Thomas Maceock and Allen Kear, the latter of whom died prior to the year 1698, and his immediate successors are not known, the last ascertainable minister being the Rev. John Welles, who died about 1789, and with him decayed the first attempt to form a congregation of local Unitarians.

It is a singular coincidence that Unitarian worship was unconsciously recommenced on the very spot where it was

originally celebrated, after the lapse of half a century—the ancient Unitarian chapel having stood near the site of the late Mechanics' Institution in Albion Street, and, like all the primitive edifices of the Nonconformists, was hidden from general observation, being approached by a narrow passage from the High Street, called "Meaking's Passage." This building was of great antiquity, furnished with a gallery, the pulpit and sittings ornamented with curious carvings, and capable of containing 150 persons. At the period before referred to, when the first recorded minister of this ancient sanctuary was elected, Cheltenham had just recovered from the evil effects of the civil wars, and, according to Sir Robt. Atkins, contained 1,500 inhabitants, 200 of whom were freeholders. After this event the place gradually declined to a small village, so much so, that there are yet surviving those who boast that they could in their youth name all the then inhabitants. It was at this epoch that the decendants of the original worshippers, finding their numbers diminished and in pecuniary difficulties on account of their minister, had recourse to a mortgage on their humble temple, which was granted them by one of a similar persuasion residing at Warwick. This was, however, their last effort as a congregation; for, at the death of the minister, the building was consigned to the mortgagee, and closed as an Unitarian chapel. Shortly after this, the followers of the zealous John Wesley commenced their itinerant labours in this locality, and rented of the mortgagee this building, where several individuals successively preached both on the Sunday and during the week, and continued possession until 1813, when the congregation removed to the present chapel in King Street, which was erected for their use. The next renters were the Independents, and the services were conducted by three young candidates for the ministry from Painswick, named Clift, Richardson, and Horlick, the last of whom became minister of an independent chapel in the Forest of Dean. These continued to preach until the erection of the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel in 1816. The next occupier was that eccentric individual of the Baptist persuasion, long known by the name of "William Bliss," who retained possession until the building became so dilapidated that it was deemed unsafe to be used for any purpose, and was consequently abandoned, and became the common property of

all, no person laying claim to it. The desire to improve the town in consequence of its great increase in population and prosperity, called for the formation of the present Pittville Street ; and power was given under the provisions of the Commissioners' Act, to remove many old buildings, and, among the number, this then ruined edifice. Thus, after having been the humble instrument of founding four of our now most numerous and flourishing congregations, perished the first temple raised by the Nonconformists of Cheltenham. The zeal, piety, and unexceptionable character of the early pastors of this interesting monument of the labours of our ancestors in behalf of religious freedom, are very clearly declared in a work published in 1698, now in the library of the Rev. B. Marden, M.A., late minister of the Unitarian Baptist congregation, Worship Street, London. It is entitled, "The Grounds and occasions of the Controversy concerning the Unity of God, the methods by which it has been managed, &c. By a divine of the Church of England." The writer, alluding to our locality, remarks :—"The Rev. John Cooper succeeded Mr. Biddle, the master of the Crypt School, in Gloucester, afterwards minister of Cheltenham, in Gloucestershire, and after the Act of Uniformity, minister of an Unitarian congregation in that place. We appeal to all who knew him whether he was not a man always composed and grave, but of a most sweet and obliging temper and conversation. He suffered those abuses from intemperate and riotous men, when the nation was running mad they knew not for what, that it broke his health and hastened his end. His daughter, Mary, died about a year and a half since, a known Unitarian, so that the minister who preached her funeral sermon commended her to his auditors for a pattern of Christian virtues, however erroneous in her judgment. Mr. Cooper was succeeded in the guidance of the Unitarian congregation by the Revds. R. Taylor, H. Sturmy, T. Macock, and A. Kear, all of them very serious and diligent in their way, devout and pious, strictly honest, and charitable to their power, however, not so accomplished in human learning." In the original edition of the "Nonconformists' Memorial," in Dr. Calamy's "History of the Ejected Ministers," and in "Baxter's Life and Times," are accounts of Mr. Cooper's ejection from the living of Cheltenham. His death is thus registered :—"In ye years of our Lord God 1682,

obit, Rev. John Cooper, minister of ye Unyterian Conventicle of ys place, March ye 18."

Unitarianism was again revived by the settlement of Mr. Furber, one of the Bath Unitarian congregation, in the town, in 1832, he having commenced in that year conducting Unitarian religious services in his own dwelling-house. This continued for three years, when the Mechanics' Institution was rented and used as a place for public worship in 1835. In 1837, the congregation removed to the old Friends' Meeting-house, when stated ministers were elected,—the Rev. F. B. Barton, B.A., to 1839; Rev. F. Bishop to 1841; Rev. L. Lewis to 1845; Rev. W. Smith to 1847; Rev. H. Solly to 1851; Rev. John Dendy, B.A., to 1853, and from that period the Rev. J. Gow, B.A.

In 1844, the Unitarian Chapel at Bayshill was erected, at a cost of £2,000. It is an elegant structure in the Anglo-Norman style, and was designed by H. R. Abraham, Esq., of Torrington Square, London. The open wood roof of the Norman era is displayed in the interior. The first organ was formerly in the Wesleyan Chapel at Gloucester, and was presented to it by a daughter of one of the Chapters of Gloucester Cathedral, whom John Wesley had converted. A burial ground is attached, and also a schoolroom. The foundation stone of the chapel was laid July 13, 1842, and it was opened on Good Friday, 1844.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

To meet the increasing demand for accommodation for religious worshippers connected with Dissenting bodies, Cheltenham Chapel, situate mid-way between the High Street and St. George's Place, was erected. It was first opened August 2, 1809, by the late celebrated divine, the Rev. Rowland Hill, who regularly preached the anniversary sermon afterwards until the period of his decease. The Rev. W. Jay, of Bath, also took part in the services. It was vested in fifteen trustees, and the trust deed sets forth the congregation as Protestant Dissenters, and the minister to preach and maintain the doctrinal articles of the Church of England. The Rev. J. Brown, of the Countess of Huntingdon's connexion, was the minister of the chapel until the time of his death in 1846.

Cheltenham Chapel has had several benefactors since its erection. In 1814, J. Friend, Esq., bequeathed £400; and in



1837, H. Broomfield, Esq., £200. The house in which the minister resided, in St. George's Square, adjacent, was also a bequest, as a token of respect to the Rev. J. Brown. A monument to Mr. Brown's memory is erected in the chapel. A considerable space of ground around the building has been appropriated to burials, and many interments have taken place.

After the death of Mr. Brown, the services were conducted by ministers of various denominations. Ultimately the trustees presented the building to the Presbyterian body. The Rev. Dr. Robert Steel was the first elected minister; and since his settlement, the sect so recently introduced has become popular, as crowded auditories and a newly erected schoolroom attest. Dr. Steel, in 1862, was chosen pastor of a congregation at Sydney, Australia, and was succeeded by the Rev. T. Macpherson, M.A., of Birmingham.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The history of the present Catholic congregation does not date back but little more than half a century. The earliest professors of the faith appear to have been individuals who had settled here during the stirring times of revolutionary action in France, in the capacity of teachers of foreign languages. The number who assembled to celebrate worship was extremely small in the first place, and met in a private house. Among the number who came to the town (and who enjoyed a considerable patronage as a teacher of languages) was the Abbe Cæsar. He was the chaplain and spiritual adviser of the unfortunate Louis XVI., and like his royal master fled from the stormy scenes of strife and bloodshed to the beautiful and retired "Queen of Watering Places." During his abode, a room in the York Hotel was fitted up for worship, and the services were regularly conducted by the Abbe. The number at this period was far from numerous, but on the increase. The Abbe died in 1811, and was interred in the parish churchyard, where a stone, erected by subscription among his pupils, may be seen, bearing this simple inscription:—"To the memory of the Rev. Alexander Cæsar, French priest, who died Sept. 24, 1811." The Rev. J. Birdsall, a priest of wealth and influence, a few years previous to the Abbe's decease, had become a resident, and by his exertions and proselytism a numerous congregation was

formed, and a spacious chapel erected in Somerset Place, and united with the Benedictine Order. Here the numbers were soon doubled, as is evident from the fact that upwards of one thousand members signed an address of loyalty at the time the Ecclesiastical Titles' Bill was being promoted. Mr. Birdsell conducted the services for a number of years, and at his decease the congregation erected within the edifice a handsome monument to his memory.

The Earl of Kenmare and Lord Castlecross took a warm interest in the establishment of a congregation, and paid repeated visits to the town for the purpose of aiding the local professors to gain that object. The *Cheltenham Chronicle* of March 11, 1813, in recording the arrival list observes :—"Earl Kenmare and Lord Castlecross, the Catholic delegates, have arrived in this town. May they return with the tidings that the members of the present British Legislature is divested of that intolerant spirit which blurred the conduct of their predecessors; that the Catholics, a loyal, long-suffering class of our fellow subjects, who have fought, bled, and died in the service of their country, have, by legal decision, a prospect of enjoying a suitable reward for their merit and exertions, and that holy religion be no longer subservient to narrow policy."

The royal family of France during their residence in the town appear to have attended the Catholic Chapel, as the following extract from the *Cheltenham Chronicle* exhibits ;—"Monday, August 9, 1813, the remains of Charles Rosalie de Rouen Chabot, Comte de Jarnac, were conveyed from Pine Cottage to the Catholic Chapel in this town, where they remained during the celebration of Mass and the funeral ceremony, whence they were conveyed to Gloucester Cathedral for interment. Most of the royal family now residing here were present."

The chapel in Somerset Place (to which was attached a day school, which is now near St. Paul's Church) becoming too small, a movement was set on foot for the erection of a new edifice. The result was the building of the present church dedicated to St. Gregory, which is unquestionably one of the finest modern Gothic structures that the town can boast of. It was opened in May, 1857, by Cardinal Wiseman, and was designed by Charles Hansom, Esq., architect, of Clifton. It represents the early decorated style of the 13th century, and

the estimated cost was £12,000. The tower and spire is 170 feet high, and the length of the church from the tower is 157 feet, the nave alone measuring 90 feet. Both the interior and exterior exhibit some superb carvings in stone. The altar contains some exquisite specimens of artistic skill—three sculptured pannels representing the Annunciation. The “Ladye Chapel” is separated from the nave by handsome rails of ornamental brass. The stained glass windows are admirable specimens of artistic skill, and many of them are placed as memorials to departed members of the faith. The entrance porch is very ornamental, and in a niche the Good Shepherd appears prominent. The stone pulpit is a work of the highest order of art, and of the entire edifice it may be said, that the beauty of its design and the elaboration and finish of every detail merit the highest commendation.

#### THE JEWS' SYNAGOGUE.

The ancient House of Israel first commenced public worship in a small upper room at the St. George's Place entrance to Manchester Walk, about forty years since. In this place, religious worship was regularly conducted until the erection of the present Synagogue in St. James's Square. The foundation stone of the Jews' Synagogue was laid with Masonic ceremony, July 25, 1837. The event attracted a numerous auditory, who were addressed by the Rev. J. Levy, first in Hebrew and afterwards in English. The Synagogue was erected after designs by Mr. W. H. Knight, a resident architect. The body of the Ark is imitation jasper; the pediment is supported by Corinthian columns, and the doors are protected by a rich Indian curtain. The edifice is lighted by a dome, neatly ornamented with cornice and fretwork. On a mural tablet is displayed a copy of a prayer for the Queen and Royal Family. The building was consecrated May 14, 1839. The Jews have a cemetery in Elm Street, Tewkesbury Road.

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## CHAPTER XXIV.

## Celebrated Authors connected with the Town.

CHELTENHAM has Literary associations of an interesting character. By birth, residence, and by visits, the Queen of Watering Places is connected with Poets and Historians, dead and living, whose works have acquired for them undying fame. Among the number are Shenstone, Lord Byron, Sir Walter Scott, Thomas Campbell, Sir E. Bulwer, Southey (the late), and Tennyson (the present poet laureate), Thomas Moore, the poet of Ireland, Hon. Mrs. Norton, D'Israeli, the author of "Coningsby" and late Chancellor of the Exchequer, Thomas Haynes Bayly, Rev. J. Middleton, Mrs. Cornwall Baron Wilson, Thomas Henry Sealy, Ainswort, Capt. Marryatt, Dr. Jenner, Dr. Barron, Charles Dickens, Mrs. Siddons. Phillips, Talfourd, Kemble, Sheridan Knowles, Mrs. Grey, Miss Pickering, Rev. R. Montgomery, Sergeant Allen, Gilbert, Horace Smith, Warren, Washington Irving, Douglas Jerrold, Harriet Martineau, Lady Morgan, Lady Bulwer, Holland, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Fosbrooke, Sir H. Bishop, Dr. Wright, Professor Buckman, Hepworth Dixon, Mrs. Gore, Rev. J. E. Riddle, Handel, Charles James Fox, Miss Culloch, Beamish, Sydney Dobell, Horace Dobell, Myers, Newman, Byrne, Cradock Newton, Sir J. Ross, Dr. McCabe, Dr. Gibney, Theodore Hook, Rev. G. Croly, and many others.

The poet Campbell has been several times a visitor. He was attracted to the town from its intimate acquaintance with the great actress, Mrs. Siddons. The poet's well-known life of this celebrated ornament of the stage evinces accurate local research into the town's history, as may be seen in reference to the quotations from it in the chapter on Dramatic History in this work. Campbell resided in Suffolk-parade during his first sojourn. His friend and contemporary, Cyrus Redding, has preserved the fact of his local connection, by recording it on the pages of the "New Monthly Magazine." The national poet of

Ireland, Thomas Moore, will be long remembered among the local literary circles. He was a frequent guest of the late J. Corry, Esq., of 7, Montpellier Spa-buildings, a gentleman intimately connected both with the literature and commercial policy of the sister isle, and who enjoyed the poet's friendship from boyhood to the grave. The poet's widow is still an occasional visitor, and resides at Skoperton Cottage, in the adjacent County of Wilts. It is a most interesting fact that Lord Byron is closely identified with the locality. At the period when the reviewers were rivalling each other in discussing the merits of "Childe Harold," its author was enjoying the beautiful scenery of Cheltenham. Here it was that he was engaged in collecting materials and contemplating his well-known poem, "The Corsair." His favourite lounge was a stile, which leads from Bays Hill, near Stoneleigh villa, through a passage in Lansdown Crescent. From this then quiet spot, the poet could command a most beautiful view of the vale of Gloucester, terminating on the right with the lofty hills of Malvern capped with the camp of the brave and patriotic Caractacus. The great poet arrived in the town in September 1812, and continued his visits until April 1813. His time appears to have been occupied in his literary pursuits, and he was in the habit of daily passing hours alone in some lonely or romantic place near the town, where the fields of nature existed unadorned, and doubtless tended to inspire him, and laid the foundation of that beautiful imagery so prevalent in his poetry composed at this period. He was a patron of the Drama, and associated with Mr. Siddons, Kemble, and Colonel Berkeley. The vicinity abounds with walks of a rural character, and it may be said with truth that no other fashionable Watering Place in England can command so many contiguous "nooks and glens" as our own town. These ever verdant and picturesque spots have charmed many a literary student. The boldest and most forcible delineations of the pleasure which a country prospect produces on the mind, as embodied in the characters in the inimitable tragedy of "Ion," were suggested to its author, Justice Talfourd, by his visits to our neighbouring hills. That a locality so truly beautiful should have fascinated a Byron is not therefore so much a matter of surprise. In Moore's life of the poet, is preserved a series of letters written by Lord Byron, during the period of his residence,

extending over six months. The letters refer principally to the publication of his works, and the reviews concerning them. They are addressed to Lord Holland, Murray the publisher, and Rogers, the poet. In one of these letters to Lord Holland, dated from High-street, Cheltenham, Sept. 10, 1812," the poet thus alludes, at the conclusion, to the locality—"My best respects to Lady H., her departure with those of my other friends was a sad event. It has now reduced me to a state of most cynical solitude. By the waters of Cheltenham I sat down and drank when I remembered thee, O Georgiana Cottage! As for harps, we hanged them upon the willow that grew thereby.—Byron." The spot alluded to is that portion of the Chelt which adjoins the residence of Lady Agar, in the Bath-road. Willows grew on the side of the river in a continuous line by Wellington Mansion, until the past few years. Lord Byron's daughter, who married Lord King, a lineal descendant of the philosopher Locke, was also a periodical visitor. This lady was the late Countess of Lovelace, and well-known as "Ada, sole daughter of my house and heart." The local connection was continued by the residence of the poet's relatives,—Mrs. Admiral Byron in the town, and the Rev. J. Byron, A.M., who has for so many years been identified with the Hardwick vicarage. By a singular coincidence Lord Byron and another celebrated poet, Haynes Bayley, both resided in the same house in the High-street (No. 480), which has been recently converted into business premises, in the occupation of Mr. Beckingsale, draper. Charles Phillips, the author of the life of the inimitable Irish orator, Curran, and Mrs. Grey, whose affecting narrative of "The Gambler's Wife," has won for the authoress a moral fame, may be claimed as former residents. This is also true of Sergeant Allen, a leading member of the Oxford Circuit, and of the Rev. R. Montgomery, the author of the remarkable poem, "Satan," the former was originally a schoolmaster in the town, and the latter was his pupil. Both in after life were destined not only to acquire a literary fame, but also to occupy a prominent position in their different professions, the bar and the pulpit. Among others who have taken up their abode, may be enumerated General Sir Walter Raleigh Gilbert, Mrs. Smythiers, the novelist, Phillipart, the well-known collector of military anecdotes, Miss Seward, the poetess, Sir C. Napier, Sir W.

Napier, and Admiral Napier, the celebrated military historians of India, Millett, the author of the Drama of "Aladdin," the builder of the Imperial Hotel, and father of Captain Millett. Sheridan Knowles, during the period he was writing his popular play, "The Love Chase," was a resident. The forcible delineations of the horse, and the sports of the hunting field, which occur in the play, were composed by the gifted author from daily observation and enquiry at the horse repository adjoining his own residence, Sudeley-place, Winchcomb-street. The town and its environs have been the favourite spots for study of the Poet Laureates, Southey and Tennyson. The family of Tennyson for several years resided at No. 10, St. James's-square. Alfred Tennyson, the present Poet Laureate, is therefore most intimately associated with the town. The poet Shenstone in 1734, and Sir Walter Scott in 1826, sought relief from the ill effects of a too close application to literary pursuits, by a recourse to the mineral waters of Cheltenham. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart., the author of the ever popular play of "The Lady of Lyons," Lady Bulwer, Hon. Mrs. Norton, Dickens, Douglas Jerrold, Miss Pickering, Horace Smith, Samuel Warren, author of "Ten Thousand a Year," Washington Irving, the fascinating American writer, Maxwell, author of "My Life," Horne Tooke, Thelwall, Stocqueter, the Indian tourist and historian, Miss Harriet Martineau, the political novelist, Lady Morgan, Medwin, the collector of Lord Byron's correspondence, Rev. G. Croly, LL.D., author of "Memoirs of George IV. and Cataline," Sir I. Brooke, author of "Travels in Borneo," Rev. G. R. Gleig, author of "The Subaltern," T. C. Grattan, author of "Highways and Byways," Theodore Hook, Rev. J. Hewlett, author of "Peter Pringle," Lover, the ballad composer of Ireland, Mrs. Maberley, author of "Melanthe," Morier ("Haggi Baba"), Sir G. Brydges, Bart., the Persian historian, Sir J. Malcolm, author of "Sketches in Persia," Capt. Marryatt, Ainsworth, and D'Israeli, have all been local sojourners and mingled with the visitors and residents.

The poet of Scotland, Robert Burns, is also identified by the residence of his two sons, Lieut.-Col. W. N. Burns and Major J. G. Burns, whose public patronage to dramatic literature at once prove them to inherit a parent's taste for what is so justly calculated to refine and elevate society. The immortal Jenner,

the discoverer of vaccination, and the author of works on Natural History and Philosophy, was for many years a resident physician; and in 1814, at his residence No. 8, St. George's Place, formed the first literary society in the town. His friend and biographer, Dr. Baron, also a name distinguished in literature, resided in St. Margaret's Terrace until his death. Mrs. Siddons, the renowned representative of the tragic muse, her brother Kemble, and contemporary Kean, were residents in the early part of their career; and those talents which in after life created so much sensation, were first developed in Cheltenham. The well-known work, "Memoirs of the Duchess of St. Albans," by Mrs. Cornwell Baron Wilson, was studied during a visit. Here it was that the immortal Handel became a sojourner after the first performance of that inspired production "The Messiah." Charles James Fox here sought repose, in the company of Jenner, from the fatigues of the senate house and the study. Here, too, have stayed Sir Henry Bishop, for ever identified with every Englishman's ballad, "Home sweet Home." That prolific and ever popular novel writer, Mrs. Gore, is also one of those who may be classed among the local *litterati*.

Dr. Wright has been locally connected by a residence of more than a quarter of a century. His labours have done much to advance a knowledge of the local geology, and he is also the editor of works in Bohn's library. "Dr. Wright of Cheltenham—than whom there are few abler geologists in England." (Rev. S. Lysons.) Another resident was Professor Buckman, of the Royal Agricultural College, the author of a large number of works on Botany, Geology, Antiquities, and Agriculture, and who has written upon the geology and botany of this locality. Mr. R. Etheridge, F.G.S., the Curator of the Geological Institute, London, was a long resident. He was formerly Curator of the Philosophical Institution, Bristol. The name of Beamish has long been locally allied. His literary industry is strikingly apparent from the continual emanations which issue from his pen on almost every subject of value and interest connected with modern science and statistics. His "Statistics of Cheltenham" evince an amount of no ordinary research, which renders the work one of reference and authority. The "Life of Sir I. Brunel, C.E.," was the latest work of Mr. Beamish, and evinces a true biographical and scientific spirit.



Among the number of modern poems which have enjoyed a national celebrity, that of "The Roman," by Sydney Yendys, stands most distinguished. The graphic yet natural diction of the composition, as well as the truthfulness of its details, will ensure its permanent popularity. It has received from the entire press, as well as from the most noted of living poets, unqualified praise, like his later productions "Balder" and the "Battle of Inkerman." The author has been many years a resident in the town, but, prompted by that modesty which ever accompanies true genius, appeared before the public under an assumed name—the real one being Sydney Dobell. "His poems exhibit a singular mixture of the philosophical and the poetical spirit. Many of his passages are as spiritual in conception and lavish in imagery as the finest portions of Shelley." (Chambers' Encyclopædia).

The name of Myers, educated at our Proprietary College, is for ever associated with the Burn's Festival at the Crystal Palace. Although then only seventeen years old, the adjudicators of the Burn's prize money confessed that they had some difficulty in deciding as to the respective merits of Isa Craig or our townsman Myers,—so equally were they matched. In 1861, this gentleman gained the Chancellor's Cambridge medal for the best English poem. He also stands distinguished for his poetical description of that remarkable painting which once graced the gallery at Lord Northwick's mansion. His poem on Belisarius has never been equalled for truthfulness in Roman historical details.

Another poet educated at the same establishment has acquired a fame for faithful delineations of the inner life.—The name of Newman need only be mentioned to remind our readers of the prize poem "The Praise of Labour," which has from time to time appeared in the local press.

The local poet, Cradock Newton, author of "Arnold, a Dramatic History," published by Bogue, and "Dora Herbert," is the descendant of a very ancient family who have long held the manor of Bitton in this county. Rudge in his account of the manor, (History of Gloucestershire), states, that in 1483 it descended to Sir Thomas Newton, by virtue of his marriage with the daughter of Sir John Barr. "This family derive their pedigree from Howel ap Grono, Lord of Newton in Rouse.

The family name was Cradock for many generations, till Sir Richd. Cradock, Lord Chief Justice of England, on his marriage with Emma, daughter of Sir T. Perret of Islington, changed his name to Newton." According to Leland, "he dwelled or was born at Newtown, in Powisland, and so was called Newton after that place."

Horace Dobell is the author of an eminent medical work, "The germs and vestiges of disease."

A well-written and able defence of the founder of Pennsylvania, William Penn, in the "Cheltenham Literary Annual" for 1856, was from the pen of W. M. Tarrt, Esq., J.P., a gentleman whose literary taste is apparent from the many contributions which he makes to the local press and public bodies.

Here it was that Wilderspin spent a large portion of his life in carrying out the Infant School system, which he perfected, and in which he was assisted by the Dean of Carlisle. His works were mostly written at the infants' school at Allstone, which he established in his own private abode (at present occupied as the country residence of Mr. Norman of the *Cheltenham Examiner*.)

To William Byrne, a resident poet, we are indebted for a detail of incidents connected with the history and legends of the locality. This volume contains numerous extracts from one of his works, which contains, among many others, a much admired poem—"Sunday Morning at the Parish Church, Cheltenham." His writings have been favourably reviewed by the press, and Her Majesty the Queen signified her approval of the author's compositions, by letter, soon after publication.

The prize for a poem on "Garibaldi," offered by a gentleman connected with the local press, in 1861, was won by Lewis Sergeant, a scholar of Pates' Grammar School, and who afterwards obtained the first of two scholarships in St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.

Hepworth Dixon, whose "Life of Bacon," and "Defence of William Penn" are so deservedly esteemed, and whose editorship of the *Athenæum* has been so successful, was a resident, and connected with the *Cheltenham Journal*.

The Rev. J. E. Riddle, M.A., the late Incumbent of St. Philip's Church, was the author of the English and Latin Dictionary, which is in general use, besides many historical works,

The Rev. C. H. Bromby, M.A., the Principal of the Training College, and Incumbent of St. Paul's Church, has been for many years past known by his numerous works on education. His fame as an author is not confined to England, but has spread itself even to the United States. We observed in a Michigan newspaper the following eloquent quotation :—

"TRAINING OF CHILDREN.—There is in this great work emphatically a right order and a wrong order of prosecuting religious truth. In manner and in manner we must remember the periods of child-life both in our schools and in our families. We must do more than crowd the memory with texts or dry abstractions, if we would awaken the consciousness of God's presence and of God's love, His power, His providence, His hatred of sin, His love of goodness,—then it is of the utmost importance that we bear in mind all along—the child's age, his mental capacity, his modes of thought. In other words, we must follow the example of the Great Teacher, and sit at His feet and see how He spoke to us of the Father. Of His teaching, I have to observe this two-fold fact : first, that it was uniformly illustrative, and, secondly, that the illustrations were borrowed only from such objects upon which the conceptions of His hearers were defined and distinct. We too must not mount higher in our illustrations than the distant conception of our children. While they are still infants, and learn through the outward senses, we must show what God is, from what He does. We point to the green fields, and to the beautiful woods, and to the blue sky, and show His love. We listen to the storm and wind, and feel His power. In the Bible I would select the account of the creation, the deluge, and the scene at the Red Sea, as well as some of the simple miracles in the lives of David and Daniel in the Old Testament, and of our blessed Lord, to illustrate the power and the providence of God."

In the department of theological literature the town has had many prolific writers, including the incumbents of most of our churches and some ministers of the Dissenting congregations. The Rev. A. Morton Brown, LL.D., is the author of "Leaders of the Lollards," "Evenings with the Prophets," &c. The Rev. I. D. Hull wrote the "Lays of many years." The Rev. F. J. Perry founded his beautiful poem "The Village" from the rural scenery in the vicinity.

The Rev. Dr. Croly, rector of St. Stephens, Walbrook, who died in December, 1860, was a visitant. "Dr. Croly had connexions and attached friends in Cheltenham. He was amongst its occasional visitors. He was greatly esteemed by those who had the privilege of enjoying his society. As a successful writer he had been before the public for nearly half a century. One of the earliest works was his poem on 'Paris in 1815,' and it was one of his best. In 1820, he published his 'Angel of the World'; in 1824, his play of 'Pride shall

have a fall'; and in 1828, his magnificent biblical romance of 'Salathiel', which in eloquence and splendour has been rarely equalled. These, and his amusing 'Tales of the Great St. Bernard', and his latest volume of poetry, in 1851, under the title of 'Scenes from Scripture, with other poems', comprise his principal works of fiction. He was a contributor to Blackwood and other magazines." (*Cheltenham Examiner*, Dec. 5, 1860).

Mr. C. Hale, an old resident, has shown considerable research in his "Graves of our Fathers."

That prolific writer, Jellinger C. Symons, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, who died in 1860, was long connected with the town, and married a daughter of E. Kendal, Esq., one of the Cheltenham magistrates. His valuable work "Arts and Artizans at home and abroad," is one of the best extant as an authority for ascertaining the staple commodity of any nation. He was successively editor of the *Cheltenham Examiner* and *Free Press*. The *Critic* in noticing his demise observes:—

"Mr. Symons, who was the son of a country clergyman, was born in 1809, and received his education at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1831. He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1843, but soon began to combine with the more special duties of his profession a devotion to literary questions of a social character, and more especially to the statistics of crime, education, and other kindred topics. His writings soon attracted the attention of Her Majesty's Government, by whom he was appointed one of the Inspectors of Schools. The various pamphlets, lectures, speeches, &c., and more elaborate treatises on educational and social subjects, which he published between that date and the present year, fill upwards of six pages in the new catalogue of the British Museum. Mr. Symons is also remembered for a controversy which he carried on against Dr. Whewell, and all the leading astronomers of the day, respecting the revolution of the moon on its axis, and for an interesting essay on the authorship of 'Junius.'"

Allies, the Worcestershire historian, and Mrs. Fison, authoress of "Letters on the Continent," have been among the number of resident *literati*, and also Mr. Hull, the author of "The Geology of the country around Cheltenham."

In that branch of literature which is united with the science of music, the locality can also boast of having had eminent professors. The names of Kirstein, Sapio, and Pio Cianchettini, will long live in the memory of those who have ever listened to their performances. Few among the living have enjoyed so long a share of popularity as Barnett. Long has this eminent

composer been a resident. He is the author of those celebrated operas "The Mountain Sylph," "Fair Rosamond," &c.

The name of another resident professor, John Bishop, has long been associated with the musical world by his editions of the works of the greatest of composers, and by many contributions allied to the subject of music. To him we are indebted for making Handel familiar to the million. His life of that great man which appeared in 1856, was the first English work that gave the correct date of the birth of the immortal author of the "Messiah." In Victor Schoeler's Life of Handel, published in 1857, the discoveries and researches of Mr Bishop are quoted, and his contribution towards a correct biography of the unrivalled composer acknowledged. Mr. Bishop is a native of Cheltenham, and branches of the family are identified with our local dramatic literature and music. His last work, published in 1862, was "Remarks on the present state of Church Music." He has also announced a new work of a very valuable character.

"Mr. Bishop, of Cheltenham, is engaged on a new edition of Barnard's Church Music. Barnard's work, beside its intrinsic merits, illustrates the ritual history of the Church of England in a very interesting way. The editor is known to be a skilful and accurate musician." (*Critic*, 1862).

The Hon. Miss F. B. Burton was a resident until her decease. This literary lady was the authoress of many works of the highest order. Miss Burton's aim was to render the most learned subjects in a popular form, and her position in society enabled her to publish at a merely nominal price. The lady's best known work is "Astronomy Familiarized," published in 1838, which contains all that can be said upon the subject, and, as a specimen of the authoress's abilities, we extract from the chapter on Comets, which possesses interest at the present time :—

"An abstruse calculation of M. Arrago's pronounces more than seven million Comets frequenting our planetary system.\* Of these, 140 appeared in the course of the last century, within the Earth's orbit, without being again seen. One especial observation merits attention. Amidst the countless directions from, and in which, Comets are rushing throughout our solar system, there is *one*, from whence all are excluded; namely, the line of the celestial ecliptic, around which travel the Earth and the other solar planets. Comets are found approaching the celestial ecliptic impetuously, from the most direct, to the most slanting course

across it; *but no Comets move along any portion of it.* The unerring minuteness of creative care thus guarding the path of its solar worlds from undue proximity even with their regenerators. Agents of grandeur proportionate to energies thus awful—what a spectacle is permitted to man, in beholding bodies thus tremendous, traversing immensity with such appalling rapidity; and, within limits prescribed, wheeling about with a regularity so precise.”

Millett, the portrait painter, who resided so long in the town, was the author of that very popular play, “Aladdin.” He built with the money earned by his talents, the Imperial Hotel in the Promenade, now called the Imperial Club. He was the father of Capt. Millett, who, until recently, was also a resident.

“MILLETT THE PORTRAIT PAINTER, AND HIS HOTEL AT CHELTENHAM.—Of another friend, about this period, (1820), I have a curious theatrical anecdote to relate. Mr. Millett was a miniature painter of fashionable repute, and one of the best artists in his line of that day. He had just finished a likeness of the famous King of Poyais, Magregor, (a royal-looking personage he was,) which I called to see, and we afterwards strolled out together. Reading the playbills on the walls, we saw “Aladdin” announced, at which Millett laughed, and said, ‘You would hardly believe that some years ago I tried my hand at dramatic writing, and really sent in a piece under that very title, of which I have never heard since. I should like to go and see this novelty of the same name.’ ‘The play’s the thing,’ answered I, and, after a quiet chop in the neighbourhood, to the theatre we went. After the play, the curtain drew up for the grand spectacle of the ‘Wonderful Lamp;’ and not the least extraordinary and amusing part of it was performed in our box by my companion. On the opening scene he gave me a dreadful kick on the shins, exclaiming, ‘That’s mine! that’s mine!’ A little change took place, and he added, *sotto voce*, ‘Or very like it.’ The short and the long of it was that ‘Aladdin’ was Millett’s drama, converted into one of the most successful spectacles ever produced; and perhaps he was the first dramatist who ever went to see a piece of his own performed without knowing it. By my advice he wrote to Mr. Harris the next day, stating the circumstances, and, in return, received from that gentleman a letter of thanks and a cheque for a hundred guineas. Whether it was to follow the example of his hero, I cannot tell, but he left off painting in London and settled in Cheltenham, where he built a most magnificent palace for an hotel, and let it at a rent of £500 a year.” (Autobiography of William Jordan, vol. iii.)

Another resident artist carried the first prize in 1843, for a design of the Cartoons for the New Houses of Parliament:—

“For one of the cartoons now exhibiting in Westminster Hall, a premium of £300 has been awarded to one of our townsmen, Mr. E. Armitage, 13, George Street, Adelphi, and Prestbury Mansion, Cheltenham. The subject of the drawing is ‘Cæsar’s first invasion of Britain,’ and the *Times* has thus remarked upon it:—‘This cartoon is very splendid: the subject is treated after the manner of Le Brun, and reminds the spectator of some of the pictures of that artist in the Louvre.’”

The local School of Art is distinguished for the many prizes, both local and national, which its members have obtained.

According to a return of the various Art Schools in England, made in 1857, Cheltenham had educated 1,350 students, which, in proportion to the population, was the largest number of any place. According to the eighth annual report, issued in 1861, the average number in attendance was 205. The report states that "the testimony which has been again borne to the successful teaching in the school by the Inspector from the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, must prove highly gratifying to all interested in the progress of Art amongst us. Fifteen medals and twenty-one prizes, exclusive of those which have been awarded to students of the Training College and other public schools, have rewarded the industry of the pupils, and sustained the character of the school. Of these fifteen medals, the Committee have the pleasure to state, *nine* were awarded to lady students." According to the report of 1862, the attendance at the school amounted to 286. The national medal, in 1858, was won by one of the students, Mr. R. T. Waite. "We are assured by a competent judge that the drawing of Mr. Waite is one of the best of its kind which has yet been placed in the South Kensington Museum. (*Cheltenham Examiner*, July 14, 1858).

Thomas Haynes Bayly, the founder of a new style of English ballads, and whose poetical productions will endure as long as a taste exists for English poetry, is most closely linked with the town's history. In Cheltenham, Bayly not only lived but died. Here he rests in peace. He reposes beneath a willow tree planted by a friendly hand in the new burial ground. The poet's "last home" is amid the luxuriant turfy grass to the left of the chapel, and it is as quiet and secluded a spot as could have been selected for a poet's grave. Located at a distance from the main walks, the last resting place of the poet is not easily discernable, but "the pilgrim to the poet's tomb," and we trust there may be many yet, may discover it by the aid of the drooping willow which hangs its head, as if in grief, over all that is mortal of him whose words have penetrated many a heart and caused a tear of affection to be shed. Bayly sought relief in the beautiful air, scenery, and mineral waters of the place, from the effects of ill-health. But all aids failed him, and he calmly resigned his spirit unto Him who gave it. Thomas Haynes Bayly resided at No. 430, High-street, where he died

on April 22, 1839, after a protracted illness, at the age of 42 years. He was interred in the new burial ground, and for a long time afterwards only a foot stone was erected to mark the spot where the poet's remains rested. At length a memorial was reared, interesting from the kindly feelings which prompted it. Mrs. Morgan, an ardent admirer of the poet's productions, then residing at Norwood, came to Cheltenham, planted the willow tree which now mournfully hangs over the grave, and at her own expense erected a head stone. The inscription simply records the name and date of decease—eulogy has been deemed unnecessary for a poet whose productions are so familiar. A design is, however, cut out of the stone from a drawing executed by Mrs. Morgan. As a work of art it is trifling, but the idea which it conveys is most significant. It represents a butterfly escaping from its chrysalis state, emblematical of resurrection, and symbolical of the author's celebrated ballad, "I'd be a butterfly." The lady who has thus endeavoured to perpetuate the poet's memory in Cheltenham, is the Mrs. Morgan, to whom the author dedicated his beautiful poem, "'Twas in a happy summer hour," which is presented in his memoir published by Bentley.

In St. James's Church, in this town, a mural marble tablet has been erected to the memory of Mr. Bayly. It bears the following inscription, written by Theodore Hook:—"Sacred to the memory of Nathaniel Thomas Haynes Bayly, Esq., who died in this town, the 22nd of April, 1839, aged 42 years. He was a kind parent, an affectionate husband, a popular author, and an accomplished gentleman. To commemorate the good qualities which she duly appreciated, this tablet has been erected by his disconsolate mother."

The Rev. J. Middleton, the author of "Pompeii," a resident poet of high celebrity, at a lecture at the Literary and Philosophical Institution, in 1840, read a poem to the memory of Mr. Bayly, and in 1852 Mr. Thornton, also a resident poet, paid a tribute to his memory. Both these poetical productions were worthy of their authors and the occasion which called them forth. In acknowledging the latter compliment, the widow of the gifted poet, in a letter to its author, thus concludes:—"I also send you an extract from the reviews of one of his prose works, 'Kindness in women.' I shall be most happy to frame the



verses you wrote at his grave, and place them in my drawing-room. My drawing-room is now ornamented with pictures done for me by friends, from some of Haynes Bayly's songs, and I expect soon to be presented with his pedigree to hang among them. His pedigree is a very ancient one, being descended from Elizabeth Woodville, who was Lady Grey of Grobby—consequently, being Queen of King Edward, she was ancestor to Lady Jane Grey. Haynes Bayley, therefore, comes in under the same line as her present Majesty, and the late Duke of Wellington—the former being twenty-first in descent from Edward I., and the latter nineteenth in descent from the same king. Pray believe me, truly yours, Helena Haynes Bayly." Although a private communication, we have quoted from this letter, feeling assured that the public will be glad to learn that the poet's widow still survives and still retains a taste for that poetical literature which her gifted partner so much cultivated when among the living. The fact is especially interesting to the musical portion of our residents. How frequently have we heard crowded and fashionable auditories at the Assembly Rooms, during a concert, loudly applaud and encore the compositions of Bayly, and few who did so, perhaps, were aware that the author lived and died near the spot in which they were assembled. The poet is no more, but his widow yet lives, and the letter which furnishes us with this latter fact, and which we have been quoting, is of recent date, being headed "Monkstone, county of Cork, Ireland, December 8, 1852."

The author is also indebted to Mrs. Bayly for facts communicated in reference to the present notice. This lady, whose family relations were residents, is still a periodical visitor.

On approaching the Gloucester-road from Christ Church the eye is met by a noble residence surrounded by stately trees, and forming a picturesque termination to the view from a declivity of the hill on which the sacred edifice is placed. This building is celebrated as the birthplace of Thomas Henry Sealy, a poet and writer of celebrity, who died at Bristol, in 1848. Alstone Lawn, for such is the name of the mansion, was the property of the Sealy family until within the past thirty-six years. They appear to have been persons moving in the higher circles of society, and were regarded as possessing wealth and local influence. Born in such circumstances, there can be no doubt

that the poet received, when young, a first-class education. Thomas Henry Sealy was born at Alstone Lawn in 1811: when he died he was only thirty-seven, that fatal age to genius! After rambling about the world for a time, in which period he visited, amongst other countries, the classic land of Italy, and there drank deeply of that perennial fountain of poetic inspiration, he settled down at Bristol, where the exigencies of his family fixed him for a number of years. Here he conducted several literary undertakings, but with less fortunate results for himself than moral benefits to the community. He was well versed in Italian literature and poetry, ancient and modern; and some of his translations from that language are greatly admired for fidelity and spirit. But he did not confine himself to the humbler office of re-creating the work divine of other hands; he aspired to the personal honour of the poet's vocation. A volume of poems, published under the quaint title of "The Little Old Man in the Wood," will be remembered by the poetical reader. Natural history and antiquities also engaged his attention. He had a curious eye, and had observed nature for himself. For several years, down to 1843, he was editor of "The Western Archæological Magazine," published in Bristol. At that period he embarked his genius and his fortune in a weekly newspaper, called *The Great Western Advertiser*, which, after a hard struggle for existence, failed, and involved its editor and proprietor in ruin. The losses in this undertaking were estimated at £12,000. From the mental effects of this calamity he never recovered. His misfortunes preyed upon a mind naturally sensitive, wasted his health, and, in conjunction with the harassing labours to which they gave rise, in fact necessitated, threw him into the consumption which carried him to a premature grave, just as the finer qualities of his mind were beginning to develop themselves, and his *status* in the world of intellect acknowledged. All who had the happiness of his acquaintance loved and honoured him sincerely. Many more, who knew him only in his works, admired the subtle soul, the delicate irony, the virgin freshness, power, and truth which pervaded them like a possessing spirit. Of all English writers his genius most resembles that of Goldsmith and Charles Lamb. His writings, immature as some of them undoubtedly are, belong to that favourite order of English

classics, and will hereafter claim their place upon the shelves with these productions.

For some time before his failure he conducted a periodical under the title of "Sealy's Western Miscellany," also published at Bristol, and in this he published some of his most charming tales. The book, however, by which he is best known, and by which he will be remembered, is "The Porcelain Tower." Of a work so popular it is needless to say anything in this place. His anonymous articles—scattered through many journals and reviews—would, if disposed of differently, have brought him the fame which can alone, to the aspiring mind, compensate for the loss of fortune. But this, the fact which we have just alluded to, denied to some extent; at least it threw difficulties in his way. He was, however, emerging into distinction. Nature had made him a literary man, and she had not withheld the power to compass great intents. Had he lived he would have achieved them. He fought his part out nobly; and, to the last, his brave spirit struggled against difficulty and depression. Militant or triumphant, his mind was equal to his fate. He died untimely for himself and for the world. But he perished in a high service; and he has left many fellow labourers behind who loved his virtues and honour his memory.

Sir James Steuart, who is identified with Scottish literature, was for many years a resident, and died in the town in 1839. In *Chambers's Journal* for that year occurs the following biographical notice:—"In August last, died at Cheltenham, Sir James Steuart, of Coltness, Baronet. This obituary notice would also be apt to pass unnoticed. Yet to those who know a little of, and feel some interest in, the domestic history of our own northern portion of the island, Sir James Steuart was a somewhat remarkable man. He was alive in 1745, though only, it is true, as an infant. His father, in the month of October in that memorable year, proceeded from Holyrood House as an ambassador from Prince Charles Stuart to Louis XV. of France, in order to arrange for a French invasion, which was to have overturned the Hanoverian dynasty in Britain. Such strange things may the life of a single man bring into connection with our own peaceful age! Sir James's mother was sister to the Lord Elcho who acted a conspicuous part in the insurrection, and at Culloden is said to have entreated the Prince to charge

with the wreck of his army against the too victorious troops of Cumberland. Sir James himself, this very old gentleman who died a few weeks ago at Cheltenham, was a friend of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu! She speaks of him in some of her letters as a fine young officer. She, it will be recollected, was born a subject of King William and Queen Mary! He was also a pet of the Duchess of Douglas, a singular specimen of the old world, who spoke broad Scotch, uttered all sorts of broad jokes, and never went out of her way for any body; this duchess's husband was made a duke at the Union in 1707, and fought on the government side at Sheriffmuir; transactions which appear almost resolved into ancient history. The former Sir James, the Prince's ambassador, was a man of vigorous talent, and wrote the first treatise of any importance in our language on political economy. Yet he was not exempt from superstitions, such as those which shaded the majestic intellect of Johnson, and from which perhaps no man of that age was altogether free. He had agreed with a youthful friend named Trotter, that whichever of them died first, should come back, if possible, to give an account of the other world to his surviving companion. A grove near Coltness House, in Lanarkshire, where they had often studied together in summer, was the place appointed for this re-appearance; that there might be no mistake or misapprehension, the hour was to be noon, and the deceased party was to come in the form and 'appearance he usually bore in life. Mr. Trotter died, and for many years before his expatriation in 1745, Sir James went regularly at mid-day to the appointed place, in the hope of meeting his friend. Seventeen years of exile elapsed, during which his mind was engrossed by one of the most rationalising of all studies. Yet, when permitted by the clemency of George III. to return home, and resume possession of his paternal mansion, he had still the same feeling respecting his engagement with Mr. Trotter. He resumed his meridian visits to the grove, and continued them to the end of his life, even when the gout had made him scarcely able to walk. He used to say, in apology, that we do not know enough of the world beyond the grave, to entitle us to say that it is impossible for one who has entered it to return to this terrestrial sphere. We must look with additional interest on the scarcely yet dried obituary notice of the last Sir James Steuart, when we find him

connecting the present age with a tale savouring so much of—we may almost say—the seventeenth century. Does the grove of Coltness still exist? The estate, alas! has been sold to a mining company for its iron and coal. We would fear that under its new circumstances, romantic associations respecting its surface may be little regarded. Yet it were worth while to take some care of the mansion and its ‘pertinents’ of the five Sir James Steuarts of Boltneß—all of whom were men of some eminence in the service of their country, though in different walks—the second being perhaps the most remarkable. He was a fellow-adventurer of William of Nassau in his voyage of November, 1868, wrote his manifesto for Scotland, and after the successful achievement of the Revolution, became his Lord-Advocate (first officer of the executive) for that country. ‘Jamie Wylie’ was the popular name of this statesman, on account of his dexterous movements amidst the trouble politics of that era; and that the name was not undeserved, one anecdote will show. In 1708, when the Chevalier St. George was hovering on the coast with a French fleet, some one represented to Sir James that of course the man who wrote so important a paper for William could not but be in great danger—‘Hoot,’ replied the old politician, ‘I’ll e’en write his manifesto too!’

It will be seen that we have classed Dr. Jenner the immortal discoverer of vaccination among our local literati. In Cheltenham he practised as a physician, and by a singular coincidence his biographer, Dr. Baron, was also a resident medical practitioner. Dr. Jenner was, moreover, a native of the county, having been born at Berkeley. It is an interesting fact that the original portrait of Dr. Jenner is still preserved at Cheltenham. This memorial of the great man consists of a large and beautifully executed half-length painting in oil. It was painted by the great Sir Thomas Lawrence in 1810, and is now in the possession of Miss Baron, St. Margaret’s Terrace, a relation of Dr. Baron, the author of Jenner’s life. In that able work this portrait is referred to by Jenner in a letter to James Moore, Esq., dated February 26th, 1810, “When I was last in town my friends urged me to sit to Lawrence, and I complied.” The engraved portrait which adorns Dr. Baron’s work of the great philanthropist is an exact copy of this noble work of art.

The number of literary and scientific residents is strikingly

apparent from the organizations which have in years past been effected to promote the spread of knowledge. So early as the year 1813, the justly celebrated Dr. Jenner attempted the formation of the first Literary Society, at his residence, No 8, St. George's Place. In after years similar attempts were made, and, at meetings from time to time held, essays were read by Sir George Whitmore, Dr. Chichester, Dr. Boisragon, Dr. Robinson, Rev. G. Bonnor, Dr. Conolly, Mr. Moss, Mr. H. Davies, and many others. The influence which these united efforts exercised is manifest by the members raising, by the means of shares, a sufficient amount to erect the late Literary and Philosophical Institution, which for so many years ornamented the Promenade, and of which we present a representation. In an architectural point of view the building is deserving of notice, from its being a model of the Temple of Theseus. The building of the Temple of Theseus was the work of the age of Pericles, in the year that Aphepsion was Archon, 467 years before Christ. It was built of Pentelic marble, and was honoured at its opening by games and festivals; and also by the celebrated contest between Æschylus and Sophocles. The front of the portico of the Institution, like Theseus, is hexastyle, having six columns, which are fluted, and also in the arrangement of its intercolumniations, which approaches near to the Systytos. The metopes in front of Theseus, were sculptured in alto relievo, representing the labours of Hercules; on either side four metopes only were sculptured, representing eight of the achievements of Theseus. In the portico of the Institution, these are, from motives of economy, left plain. The proportions of the development of the syffit of the corona; the mutules, with the distribution of their guttæ; the tryglyphs, and also the autæ, are preserved with the utmost fidelity. The portico being the architectural feature intended to attract most attention, the remainder of the front is purposely preserved tranquil and unobtrusive. The interior of the building contained a spacious lecture-room, library, reading-rooms and museum. In the latter, among the curiosities, was preserved a mummy which was publicly unrolled at the Institution before large companies, in October, 1842, by D. W. Nash, Esq.; it was brought to England by Captain Lowe, R.N. There was also a fine specimen of Monastic art, in basso relievo, discovered at Earls Croome, Worcestershire, representing the

leading events in the Life of Christ ; and many other specimens connected with history, science and the fine arts, worthy of being preserved. The Society having been dissolved, the fine classic building was taken down in November, 1861. The museum, library, and works of art are still preserved with a view to their being applied for the purposes of a public institution to be hereafter established in the town.

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## CHAPTER XXV.

### Local Instances of Longevity.

THE salubrity of the air of Cheltenham has been an acknowledged fact and enlarged upon by the most eminent medical writers of the past century. The proofs which have led to this admission are to be found in the Registrar's reports, which have from time to time been issued, and to the longevity which the inhabitants generally attain. The average number of deaths for past years, compared with other towns of the same population, show how favourable the locality is to health. In 1832, when that dreadful scourge, the cholera, was destroying its victims by hundreds at the neighbouring towns of Gloucester and Tewkesbury, not a single death occurred from that dire disease in the town, and during the raging of the epidemic there was an unusually small number of deaths from any cause. A still more decisive proof is to be found in the great age attained by the inhabitants, whether of such as are

"Native and to the manor born,"

or of those who, from visitors, in pursuit of health and pleasure, have become from choice, enrolled amongst our residents. We purpose to put on record from an unerring authority—"the book of the dead"—some local instances of the prolongation of human life which, we presume, have never been exceeded elsewhere.

"Cheltenham, from its position and other circumstances, may be regarded as one of those most favourably placed. The

general healthiness of the town, for a permanent abode, is clearly proved by the advanced age attained by a large proportion of the inhabitants, and in its comparative exemption from fevers of a pernicious character, and from devastating epidemics." (Lee).

"It was this purity and salubrity, combined with the sheltered position of the town, which induced the late Sir Benjamin Bell, who considered the climate as mild as that of any portion of the coast of Devon, to select Cheltenham for the residence of his numerous consumptive patients." "So tempered is the climate, by the very circumstances of its situation, so bountifully has this favoured spot been adorned with all the charms of scenery, that it would seem as if in its formation the hand of an All-merciful Providence had devised it for the fountain head of health." (Weller).

Dr. Gibney says that, "the climate of this place is particularly well adapted for health, there being neither great extremes of heat nor of cold. The yearly mean heat indicated by the thermometer for seven consecutive years, is 51 deg. 36 min., a temperature sufficiently indicative of the mildness of the atmosphere. The town is so sheltered by hills from the north and east winds that consumption and winter coughs are less prevalent than at other places; and the hills are at such a distance as to attract a great proportion of the moisture, which would otherwise impair the salubrity of the air of the town. The winds most common at Cheltenham are from the south and west, which are esteemed the least prejudicial to health." And Dr. M'Cabe further remarks that "there are neither swamps nor marshes to infect the air with their pestilential exhalations, and induce intermittent fevers, with their long train of consequences, which ultimately break the constitution; *nor cold nor piercing winds* to drive the blood from the surface to the internal and vital organs, and occasion colds, catarrhs, and inflammations, which, in the variable climate of England, are too frequently followed by pulmonary consumption."

"Some idea may be formed of the health of the town at the present not very healthy season, when we state that although its population is nearly forty thousand, the total number of burials during the last three weeks have been only eight! There is, probably, not another town in England of its size which can show



such a low rate of mortality as is indicated by the above gratifying fact.”—*Cheltenham Examiner*, Dec. 17, 1856.

The population of the Cheltenham Union was, prior to the last census, over 44,000, and yet the Registrar General’s report—made up to the 29th Sept., 1860, showed a decrease in the number of deaths compared with the corresponding quarter in 1859. The number of deaths in the former period being 221 and in the latter 170. The *Cheltenham Examiner*, of Nov. 21, 1860, in publishing the tabular statement at length, observes—“From the above it will be seen that Cheltenham still holds its place as one of the most healthy localities in the county. Taking the death returns as showing the actual state of health in each locality, the returns give a result equally gratifying, as it places Cheltenham in the most favoured position among the other towns in the county. The above figures show that, by means of our sanitary improvements, our good town still maintains its position as standing A 1 among the cities of the kingdom in the books of the Registrar General.”

“Persons who come to Cheltenham directly find how suitable the climate is to health, which must be principally ascribed to the purity and salubrity of the air. Indeed, Gloucestershire is famous for the healthiness and longevity of its inhabitants. In the reign of James the First, eight old men, whose ages added together made eight centuries, performed a morris-dance. That some should reach the age of one hundred is not wonderful in several situations and countries, but that they should be able to dance is certainly a circumstance peculiar to this fine county.”—*Guide to Watery Places* (Longman.)

“In the neighbourhood of Cheltenham the air is soft and mild and even in the wintry season not ungenial to its long-lived inhabitants. If the best proof of the healthfulness of the air of any place is to be deduced from the customary longevity of the people, many very old persons are daily to be seen in Cheltenham; and even the silent repositories of the dead are vocal, to record the great age of many of the town and neighbourhood.”—*Journey to Cheltenham Spa*, 1781.

“Among the spectators who witnessed the procession on Monday (inauguration of the Russian guns) was a Mrs. Wintle, in her 94th year. The old lady listened with great glee to the Royal salute fired from the guns in Prestbury Park, and

appeared fully to enter into the spirit of the proceedings. To how many events of the past century must this woman's memory date back. She was a girl at the breaking out of the American War of Independence; was 17 at the time of the battle of St. Vincent, 23 at the breaking out of the first French Revolution, and she can remember many occasions of national mourning and rejoicing arising out of the terrific struggles which followed that event."—*Cheltenham Examiner*, July 7, 1858.

The death of a well-known frequenter to the Cheltenham Market is also recorded in the same local paper of January 27th previous.

"On Sunday last, in the hamlet of Woodmancote, Ann Kitchen, aged 105 years, breathed her last. Deceased was formerly a market woman, and as such attended Cheltenham weekly for many years. For the last two years, however, she had been bed-ridden, but possessed her faculties, both visual and intellectual, unimpaired up to the period of her death. Deceased was the oldest woman in the county."

"It may be satisfactory to those who feel an interest in Cheltenham to be informed of the following facts:—The ages of the only five persons who were buried in Cheltenham during the past week, ending August 4th, amounted in the aggregate to 399, on an average of eighty years each! And in the following week there were only two persons buried in the town, out of a population of 40,000; the smallest number on record in any one week for a great many years. It is also gratifying to know that during the portion of the year 1860, which has already expired, there have been considerably less deaths than there were in the corresponding period of last year."—*Cheltenham Examiner*, Aug. 15, 1860.

At the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians at Cheltenham, in July, 1861, it was officially announced by the chairman, Mr. Downing, that among the number of persons receiving parochial relief, "370 are upwards of 70 years of age to 94 years of age, which is the age of the oldest pauper out of the house, although we have an older pauper in the house." At the present time there are two recipients of out-door relief who were 95 years of age last birthday.

"One instance of longevity, and of the retention of bodily

health and activity for nearly a century, is worthy of being recorded. In April, 1818, William Lake, a native of Bod-dington, died there at the close of his 99th year. He was in the constant and daily habit of walking to Cheltenham and back again—a distance both ways of nine miles—until a few days previous to his death, and to the last he perfectly possessed his mental faculties." (Griffiths.)

At a public dinner, given to celebrate the extension of gas lamps in the public streets from Cheltenham to Leckhampton, in January, 1862, among the guests present was an old inhabitant, named Purser, who had reached the advanced age of 105 years!

"During the past month, an unusual number of aged persons have died in Cheltenham, no less than thirteen having been interred in our parish cemetery above 70 years of age. Of this number, eleven had passed their 75th year; seven had exceeded 80; four had passed 85; one had reached 99; and one died at 103. Their united ages make a total of 1071 years, or an average of upwards of 82 years to each person. These statistics are such as few towns in England, of similar size to Cheltenham, can boast." (*Cheltenham Examiner*, April 2, 1862.)

In 1807, Dr. Jameson copied from the tombstones in the Parish Churchyard, the ages of 864 persons, the majority of whom were above 60; fifteen were 90 years old, and two hundred and twenty-five were between the ages of 65 and 96. Similar is the testimony of Moreau, who investigated the matter a few years previous. "In the year 1800," he says, "the churchyard bears record to the memory of 225 persons, who, within 80 years of the past century, died between the ages of 65 and 96."

Ruff, speaking of the Old Well Walk, remarks, "These trees were planted for Capt. Skillicorne by Mr. Andrews, a respectable surveyor of Cheltenham, who died in 1743; and a strong instance is afforded of the healthiness of the place, and how greatly it is conducive to longevity, that his widow died in 1803, aged 94 years, and had been sixty years a widow; and her mother died at the age of 92 years."

For nearly half a century, there was an inmate of the Cheltenham Workhouse, named Sarah Bradstock, who retained her faculties to the last, and lived to be within four months

of 106 years. To perpetuate the memory of this local veteran, a monument was erected, at the public expense, over her grave in the New Burial Ground, where she was interred in 1847.

Annexed is a list, extracted from the local registers, of some of the more aged inhabitants, with the year when interred, and the age at the last birthday prior to decease.

**INSTANCES OF LONGEVITY ATTAINED BY DECEASED  
INHABITANTS OF CHELTENHAM.**

<i>Year of decease.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Year of decease.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Age.</i>
1791	Hannah Leach.....	96	1846	Elizabeth Little .....	94
1795	Anne Hopkins .....	93	1847	Thomas Mason.....	91
1800	Mary Stevens .....	92	"	Samuel Davis .....	96
1803	Anne Andrews.....	94	"	Sarah Bradstock .....	105
1815	Ann Angelic .....	91	"	Mary Gardner .....	91
"	Mary Lane .....	102	"	Caroline Tanner .....	90
"	Richard Sherrington .....	91	1848	Thomas Walker .....	91
1825	Richard Lily .....	106	"	Ann Griffith .....	91
"	Esther Stroud .....	104	"	Ann Green .....	92
"	Thomas Williams.....	102	1849	William Jordan .....	92
"	Thomas Morgan .....	91	"	Richard Webb .....	96
1830	Dinah Chestero .....	103	"	W. Jordan .....	90
1833	Sarah Brown .....	98	"	Elizabeth Champion .....	90
1835	Eliza Harding .....	100	"	Elizabeth M. Keating .....	97
"	Elizabeth Fry .....	103	"	Elizabeth Pimble.....	98
1836	Robert Chambers.....	99	"	Ann C. Douglas .....	92
1837	Martha Williams .....	99	"	Jane Rose.....	94
1839	Mary Betteridge .....	97	1850	Sarah Kench .....	90
"	John Brown .....	99	"	Francis Radnal .....	93
1840	William Pantin .....	96	"	Ann Webb .....	97
1842	Elizabeth Workman.....	102	"	John West .....	92
1843	Sarah Kingham .....	97	"	Elizabeth Morgan .....	92
"	Sarah Hiam .....	99	"	Phillipa Shaw .....	95
"	Thomas Starr .....	90	1851	Nicholas Allen.....	90
"	Sarah Wellsman .....	90	"	William Wilks.....	91
"	Ann Sweeney .....	92	1852	Mary Maisey .....	97
1844	Benjamin Johnson .....	95	"	Elizabeth Greening .....	91
"	William Holford .....	92	"	Elizabeth C. Stephens.....	91
"	Isabella Rogers .....	91	"	Rev. Sir R. Wolseley, Bart.	92
1845	Francis Crompton .....	93	"	Jane Johnstone .....	94
"	Anne Blessauxnax .....	91	"	Charlotte Cotton .....	97
"	Elizabeth Weake .....	90	1853	Ann Davies .....	91
"	Mary Smith .....	90	"	Louisa Cook.....	96
"	Jane Heming .....	92	"	Ann Iredell .....	92
1846	James Hawkins .....	90	"	Harriett Till .....	94
"	Mary Page .....	90	"	Martha Rose.....	91
"	Anne Lowe .....	91	"	Charlotte Scott.....	104
"	Sarah Bagott .....	90	1854	David Home.....	91
"	Gilbert Jones .....	91	"	Elizabeth Cook .....	97

<i>Year of decease.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Year of decease.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Age.</i>
1854	Maria Ward.....	96	1857	Richard Saunders.....	91
"	Amra Williams.....	91	"	Catherine Flanney .....	98
"	M. Rawlinson .....	91	"	Ann Loyd.....	99
"	Lavinia Lenon.....	90	1858	Letitia Barry .....	91
1855	Sarah Sallis .....	92	"	Charlotte Jacobs .....	94
"	Robert Lambert .....	93	1859	Solomon Samuels.....	92
"	John Griffin.....	92	"	Sarah Parry.....	93
"	John J. Sextie .....	90	"	Kate Levison .....	91
"	Thomas Jones .....	90	"	Sarah Jones .....	94
"	Wilham Walkeley .....	90	"	Charlotte Osbaldiston .....	90
"	Hannah Deeton .....	91	"	Thomas Wells .....	90
"	Major Browne.....	92	"	Margarett Wooley .....	90
"	William Berry.....	93	"	Thomes Hemin .....	90
1856	Thomas Clutterbuck .....	90	1860	Elizabeth Griffiths .....	97
1857	Timothy Callagan .....	96	"	John Karney .....	93
"	Elizabeth Taylor .....	96	"	Mary Kingdom .....	92
"	Ann Vickerage.....	97	1861	Ann Townsend.....	92
"	Mary Belcher .....	94	"	John Hardy .....	93
"	Sarah Mason .....	91	"	John Baker .....	92
"	Elizabeth Lee .....	91	"	Mary Durham .....	90
"	Ann Leonard .....	92	"	Ann Melvin .....	90
"	Ann Clarke .....	90	"	Mary Martin .....	93
"	Mary Masters .....	92	"	Amy Webb .....	98
"	Moses Moses .....	90	1862	Bartholomew Cassidy .....	103
"	William Griffiths .....	95	"	Charlotte Scott .....	100

## CHAPTER XXVI.

*Maude's Elm.*

O! the old Elm Tree, that for ages past  
 Has bow'd its majestic head  
 To the gentle breeze and the sturdy blast,  
 Still flourishes o'er the dead.  
 And whenever I gaze on its aspect bold,  
 Or give ear to its mournful creak,  
 Do I think what a tale would it unfold,  
 Could its leaves or its branches speak.—J. CARPENTER.

THE large number of trees, including almost every known variety, which grow in the parish of Cheltenham, by their beautiful foliage and diversity of form contribute greatly to impart that picturesque character to the Queen of Watering

Places for which it has been so long and so justly celebrated. From time immemorial, one of these trees has acquired great notoriety among both visitors and residents, in consequence of its past history being interwoven with a tradition of romantic interest. It is called "Maude's Elm," and is so lofty in stature that it forms a prominent object for miles around. It is situate about a quarter of a mile from the road which forms the parish boundary at Swindon, and but a short distance from the centre of the town. The general form of the tree is graceful; and its boughs, ever green and verdant, overspread a considerable distance, whilst its gigantic proportions and towering height impress the beholder with awe and wonder. The trunk of the tree is 21 feet in circumference, and it appears to be in a healthy and solid state. The roots, laid bare by the constant tread of footsteps, extend several yards from the trunk into the public road, and present a novel and remarkable appearance. Swindon, with its old church, displaying a unique Norman tower, and ivy-clad walls, surrounded with its ever solemn grassy graveyard, together with the tasteful drives and plantations of Swindon Hall—has become, from its close proximity to the town, a place of favourite resort. Maude's Elm is passed on the journey to this sequestered village, and consequently it is located on a spot of increasing public thoroughfare. The rude blast for centuries has raged against this venerable elm, but, excepting a few upper limbs which have been dismantled, it has escaped uninjured. Gilpin, the most eminent describer of the picturesque in nature, in his account of our local scenery, particularly points to Maude's Elm as one of the finest trees in Cheltenham. It is nearly a century since he recorded the impressions which the wide-spreading elm had made upon his sensitive mind; and, since his time, many thousands of visitors have bent their way to inspect its fine and graceful form. That celebrated character, the Duchess of Devonshire, (mother of the late Duke of Devonshire, of Chatsworth, and the patron of Sir Joseph Paxton), was such an ardent admirer of this noble member of the forest, that she was daily to be seen, during her residence in the town, taking her seat, and reading her favourite authors beneath the shade of its foliage. It was during one of these daily visits, that a little boy who had charge of a horse attracted the Duchess's attention. Struck with the intelligent expression of countenance in a youth

so young and destitute, her Grace accosted him, and presented a donation. The boy, although only nine years of age, in return for this mark of kindness, related what he knew of the origin of Maude's Elm. The Duchess was so struck at the recital of the narrative, that she adopted the child, educated him, and he became a visitor to Devonshire House! Her Grace, in after life, gave him capital on several occasions, to enable him to set up in business; but his eccentric mode of living caused him to pass through many vicissitudes—one week rolling in wealth, and the next in abject poverty. He died at Cheltenham in 1844, This was Miles Watkins, so long known as "The King of the Cheltenham Royal Family." In 1840, the Duke of Devonshire, during his visit, had a drawing of the elm executed, as a memento of his mother; and finding that Miles Watkins was still alive, and had attained his 70th year, he gave him pecuniary assistance, to enable him to live comfortably in his declining years. We present two illustrations—one which shows a distant view of the tree with Christ Church in the distance, as seen from Swindon Bridge, and the other the tree upon a nearer approach. We also avail ourselves of extracts from the works of three local poets, who have described in verse the history of Maud's Elm, and which were published in 1852.

The adjacent village of Swindon retains, unaltered, its rural and ancient character, having escaped the hand of the innovator—a fact, no doubt, attributable to its quiet and retired position. The brook, as in days of yore, denotes the boundary of the village dwellings, and the approach from Cheltenham across the stream is still, as it was anciently, by way of a bridge. At this last-named spot was enacted the tragedy which gave birth to the traditional history of Maude's Elm. The inhabitants of Swindon were one night alarmed by the shrieks of an aged and frantic mother, who declared that her only child was lost. The missing fugitive was an industrious daughter, who had been sent to Cheltenham with some spun wool, the joint produce of herself and mother. Her name was Maude Bowen, the pride of the village, who had just attained her majority, and was possessed of great personal attractions. Search was made in vain during the darkness of the night, but at daybreak a sad scene presented itself. In the brook lay the lifeless body of the beautiful Maude, which appeared to have lain there for some time. On the bridge

close by, another corpse was discovered. This proved to be Godfrey Bowen, the uncle of Maude. An arrow had penetrated his heart: he grasped with his left hand the hand-rail of the bridge, and in his right hand were some rent portions of Maude's dress.

When night's last shadow had passed away,  
And the crystal drops upon every spray  
Heralded in the blushes of day,  
A ghastly scene was revealed to the eye,  
That caused the blood from the cheek to fly;  
For the stoutest villager gasped for breath,  
As he wildly gazed on the double death.

On the dimpled bosom of a stream,  
That flowed unruffled as life's young dream,  
The Swindon maiden lay cold and dead,  
A holy calm o'er her features spread,  
As though her spirit in peace had fled.  
No midnight murderer's stab could be traced,  
No ruffian blow had her beauty defaced,  
So 'twas thought, in the height of mad despair,  
She had cast away life and sorrow there.

Old Margaret wept o'er the lifeless clay  
Of the budding blossom thus torn away;  
But no flood of grief could awaken the dead,—  
The silvery voice was for ever fled.

But the heart was pained with another form,  
By the murderer's hand made food for the worm.

On a rustic bridge that spann'd the stream,  
Whence rose to the heavens Maude's stifled scream,  
Godfrey Bowen was stiffening there.  
His clotted blood tainting the morning air;  
An arrow shot with unerring aim,  
Was buried deep in his heart of shame,  
While his right hand grasped with tenaciousness,  
A tattered shred of the virgin's dress.

A mystery clouded the horrible deed,  
And heaven alone the truth could read!  
For in those days of despotic wrong,  
Who dared to wag the insolent tongue?  
Who dared to utter in faintest breath  
What the living thought of the maiden's death?  
The lip was sealed, and the tongue was tied  
By bloated tyranny's power and pride,  
But there was ONE who viewed with a smile  
The headman's axe and the faggot pile;  
He breathed his thoughts in the silent shade,  
And vowed revenge for the Swindon maid!



Godfrey Bowen to the grave was borne,  
 With not one neighbour his fate to mourn ;  
 'Twas known he was miserly, stern and odd,  
 And laid not his heart on the altar of God ;  
 'Twas known he had tortured the widow's heart,  
 And play'd to to'rds Maude an ungracious part ;  
 'Twas felt in the sorrow for her that was gone,  
 The ruin was wrought by his baseness alone.

—CLINTON.

In those ancient times, it was customary for the lords of the manor of Cheltenham and Swindon to elect their own coroners, who were generally residents, which enabled justice to be locally administered without delay. The lord of the Swindon manor at once summoned his coroner, and a verdict of "*felo-de-se*" was returned against Maude, who it was decided had committed suicide. According to custom, the body of the alleged self-murderess was ordered to be buried in the nearest cross-road, without Christian burial.

Alas, for Maude ! a horrible doom,  
 Denied her body a Christian tomb ;  
 By malice, revenge and terrible hate,  
 A coroner's verdict pronounced her fate.  
 They dug her a grave on the king's highway,  
 With no kind lips o'er her corpse to pray ;  
 They buried her there in the dead of night,  
 While the torches flashed their lurid light ;  
 No pall, no coffin, no virgin shroud,  
 No relatives moaning their griefs aloud ;  
 No priest to fulfil his mission just,  
 Ashes to ashes, and dust to dust :  
 Was this enough for the vengeful foe,  
 To the wormy bed unshriven to go ?  
 No, not enough ; for a fearful thing  
 Is revenge when it burns to leave a sting !  
 Justice was warped and the law defied,  
 And the maiden branded a *suicide* !  
 A stake was from an elm tree riven,  
 And through the spotless body driven.

—CLINTON.

A glance at the map contained in Ogilby's "*Britannia*," published by government authority, in 1675, from an ordnance survey, will demonstrate that the site of Maude's Elm must have formed the centre of a spot where four roads branched off—the one through Hardwick to Tewkesbury, and others to Cheltenham, Cleve, and Gloucester. Here it was that the once fair and beautiful village maid was interred. In accordance with

the fashion of the day, an elm stake was driven through her body, which, in process of time, grew to the stately tree which now exists, and which yet retains the name of "Maude's Elm."

In those days it was the custom, when folks killed themselves, to thrust 'em  
In their graves without a coffin, without shroud or winding-sheet,  
And when midnight winds were blowing, thus they buried fair Maud Bowen,  
In the grave which they had digg'd, where the four cross roads do meet.  
O! sad death for village beauty, O! vile grave for one so sweet!

And it seems the elm stake shooted, in the maiden's body rooted,  
And with leaves and tender branches raised its head above the ground;  
And so wond'rous was its growing, that it's noble head was showing  
Very shortly as the highest object in the country round.

—BYRNE.

Margaret Bowen, the mother of Maude, was deprived of the means of existence by the death of her affectionate daughter. The shock which her enfeebled frame suffered at the sudden catastrophe, nearly proved fatal to her; and she never afterwards, except at short intervals, regained her wonted cheerfulness. Her distress was still further heightened by being ejected from her freehold cottage, which was seized by the lord of the manor, who claimed it as an escheat by virtue of the verdict of the coroner's inquest. Without a home to shelter herself, the distracted mother wandered from house to house in the village, and found among her neighbours many who commiserated her; but the thought of her dear child seemed ever to pervade her whole mind, and she grew more and more melancholy. At different periods she was missing, and then would again mingle with the inhabitants of her native village, whose sympathy she had won by many acts of kindness. It seemed as if she was a wanderer and outcast upon the earth, and each time that she returned to pay her visits, it was observed that she looked more and more dejected. But, although not a regular visitant in the place of her nativity and among her friends, yet it was ascertained that there was one spot where she was generally to be found, and that was at her daughter's grave. The fond mother was daily, in all seasons of the year, however inclement, to be seen, with the affection of a true mother, shedding the tear of grief, watching and watering the elm tree which was growing from the stake which had so barbarously pierced the pallid corpse of her whom she loved most dearly.

One morning, while seated at this place, as was her wont, her attention was arrested by an unusual procession of carriages and horsemen coming from Swindon. It proved to be the lord of the manor and suite on their road to Cleeve Church, to celebrate the christening of a first-born son and heir. The lord appeared annoyed at the position which Margaret occupied, and requested two of his attendants to go forward and to remove her before the cavalcade passed by. But neither threat nor persuasion could move the devoted parent from the last resting-place of her loved one, unconsecrated as it was. At length orders were given to obtain forcible possession of Margaret, but, just as the vassal's arm was uplifted, an arrow struck him to the heart, and he fell instantly dead. The arrow came from a thick wood, which then grew on the side of the old Gloucester Road, but upon search, no traces of the archer could be found. By the lord's order, poor Margaret was seized, bound, and conveyed to Gloucester Gaol, charged with the twofold crime of murder and witchcraft.

What cavalcade comes slowly on,  
 With plumes and banner, mirth and glee ;  
 The joyous scene will change anon  
 To one of death and misery !

Sir Robert de Vere, and his lady fair,  
 Bedecked with silks and jewels rare,  
 Came forth from the Hall on that sun-lit day,  
 Attended by knights, in waving plumes,  
 And beautiful girls, whose choice perfumes  
 As they passed along, scented the air ;  
 And prancing steeds, with trappings gay,  
 Garlanded o'er with flowers of May ;  
 While pages, and vassals of every grade,  
 Brought up the rear of the cavalcade.

Where is it wending, that gorgeous train,  
 So lavishly decked with the golden grain !  
 'Tis a day of joy, for that lady fair  
 Hath blessed her lord with a son and heir,  
 And the sinless babe they are bearing now,  
 For baptismal water to lave his brow :  
 But little they reck of the terrible doom  
 That will spread around them its pall of gloom,  
 And change their joy in its hey-day flood,  
 To bitterest sorrow, and tears of blood.

"What beggar is this that stops my path ?"  
 Sir Robert de Vere exclaimed in wrath,  
 When he saw the form of the widow wild,  
 Bent on the grave of her murdered child.

"Hag! Fiend! and Witch! why art thou there,  
To blast my sight with thy hoary hair?  
I thought thy bones were rotting ere this—  
Do'st come to shadow my new-born bliss?  
Up, up, and away, and cross no more  
My summer path like a stream of gore!"

The form of Margaret moved not an inch,  
Not hers the spirit to cower, and finch.

"Thou bravest me! but I know thy drift—  
Avaunt! or I'll have thee caged, and whipt;  
Thy mummy skin and marrowless bones  
Shall be lashed, 'til thy heart with anguish groans."

The mandate was heard, but heeded not,  
Meg's crouching form seemed glued to the spot.

"Hubert! advance," cried the Lord de Vere—  
"This witch is revolved my power to jeer;  
Lay hands upon her, and drag her hence,  
A dungeon shall be her recompense!"

From the gorgeous train came forth the slave,  
To tear old Meg from her daughter's grave;  
When an arrow, shot with unerring aim,  
Pierced his heart as he seized the dame.  
He staggered, and fell like a heavy stone,  
And died without a struggle, or groan.

The Lord of the Manor turned deadly pale,  
And his heart for a moment began to quail,  
For he thought of the unseen arrow that sped,  
And numbered Godfrey among the dead.  
"Drag hither the wretch!" at length he cried,  
"Yon slave is not the *first* who has died  
From the sinful force of her potent spell;  
She is in league with the fiends of hell;  
Away with the witch to the dungeon's gloom,  
The fiery faggot shall be her doom!"

Old Meg was forced from her daughter's grave,  
Unheeded the piercing shrieks she gave;  
Her tears and prayers were of no avail—  
She lodged, that night, in Cloucester jail!

—CLINTON.

In a fortnight afterwards, the afflicted mother took her trial; and with the aid of so influential a prosecutor as the lord of the manor, it was not difficult to obtain a verdict of guilty. The judge, in passing sentence, enlarged upon the necessity of

severely punishing all who practised witchcraft, and ordered her to be burned to death on the precise spot where the lord's attendant had been shot, which was none other than her daughter's grave! The sentence was carried out to the letter on the following morning. The unfortunate victim of the credulity of a past age, was brought in a rude cart from Gloucester, guarded by officers, and seated upon a bundle of straw, which was to kindle the flames that were to burn her alive. A heap of faggots had been piled, in a circular form; and as Margaret was being led forth to the stake, to be tied up, a murmur of pity and of regret ran through the assembled crowd, as they beheld the wan and emaciated form of one who, in the days of her prosperity, had ever acted with kindness and benevolence towards all. The fire was but just kindled, when the solemn silence was broken by the Lord of the Manor penetrating the assembly, and taunting the dying woman with exercising the art of witchcraft. He had not spoken many words before an arrow, from some invisible hand, penetrated his person, and after uttering several convulsive groans, he fell dead at the feet of the burning Margaret. In a few moments afterwards the blazing pile seemed to have reached its height, the stake was heard to fall, and nothing was to be seen but a heap of mouldering ashes. An event so tragical exercised a great influence over the residents at the time, and the superstitious character of the age gave additional colouring to the affair. Conjecture and speculation were continually at work to clear up the incidents, and the tree daily growing in size seemed to stand forth as a living monument of crime and punishment. The Lord of the Manor having perished, his property passed into the hands of strangers. The house which afforded shelter to Margaret Bowen was unoccupied and unowned. Nearly half a century had elapsed since the tragedy had been enacted at Maude's Elm, when the villagers were surprised at finding a stranger spending a large portion of the day beneath the elm, and also residing during the night in the decayed dwelling of the reputed witch:

Above the grave of hapless Maude,  
The young elm tree began to shew  
Limbs, and proportions, strong and broad,  
While from the stately body grew  
Branches, and leaves, that shadowed o'er  
The root, so long baptized in gore.

Beneath that fresh-limbed, young elm tree,  
 The unknown stood, and as he gazed  
 The scene around, his eye was glazed,  
 His care-worn spirit seemed to flee  
 To days long vanished, and his frame  
 Shook like an aspen, when the wind  
 Of Autumn blows upon the rind :  
 Old age was dead, and he became  
 A living youth again. He threw  
 His hat and staff upon the ground,  
 And kneeling near the elm tree, drew  
 A sight from sorrow's cell profound.  
 A tear upon his pale cheeks strayed,  
 While thus he mourned the Swindon Maid.

When thou wert snatched from earth, my sainted Maude,  
 All joys were gone ;  
 I sought the wars, the soldier's bloody trade,  
 But still my heart was lone.

Oh, thou hast been a lovely moonlight beam  
 In saddened hours ;  
 And I have strewed thy grave in fancy's dream,  
 With wreaths of mountain flowers.

Though Time hath laid his hands upon my head,  
 My heart is young ;  
 Though I have fainted upon sorrow's bed,  
 To thee I still have clung.

E'en when I roamed the hills, a careless boy,  
 My heart was thine ;  
 I thought thou would'st have been a thing of joy  
 And hope, in life's decline.

With bleeding heart, I pluck a young green bough  
 From that elm tree,  
 Whose obscure root, some fifty years ago,  
 Drew the dead blood from thee.

Upon thy lowly grave, sweet love, I fling  
 My weary bones ;  
 'Ere long, we both shall meet before the King  
 Of Kings, and Throne of Thrones.

—CLINTON.

The occupant of the long closed cottage was one whose appearance bespoke that he was verging upon fourscore years. This remarkable circumstance soon arrested attention, and upon giving his reason for desiring to end his days in that humble dwelling, the new comer was allowed uninterrupted possession. The narrative of his life he would often tell until it became

familiar as "household words" to every villager. It was conveyed from father to son, and thus orally, the traditional history of "Maude's Elm" has descended down to our own day. The tale was published at Tewkesbury about a century since, under the title of "A true Relation of Maude's Elm," but the work is now rarely to be met with, except in the library of the antiquarian. The occupier of Margaret Bowen's cottage was, in fact, the hero of most of the remarkable events connected with her history. He was enabled to clear up all that appeared shrouded in mystery. His name was Walter, and his birth-place was Swindon. From his earliest years he had loved Maude Bowen, and was most ardently beloved by her. He was so skilled in the use of the bow and arrow, as to be called "Walter the Archer." Godfrey Bowen, the uncle of Maude, who was found shot on the bridge, was a most avaricious man, and in order to obtain possession of the freehold house which would revert to his niece at the mother's death, offered marriage to Maude. The girl indignantly refused the offer. No sooner had poor Maude escaped from this trial than she had to encounter one of a severer nature. The Lord of the Manor, having been struck with her great personal attractions, at once sought to make her his mistress. Maude repelled him with that moral firmness which ever shields and strengthens the virtuous from the attack of the seducer. Finding all persuasion useless, the Lord employed the uncle Godfrey to aid him to gain his unlawful end. This man, animated with the two-fold desire of acquiring gold for his unholy services for the present, and the future prospect of being possessed of the family freehold, became a ready tool. On the night when Maude was missing, Walter, her affianced, upon hearing of the affair, immediately sallied forth with his bow and arrows. He searched every thicket, and had almost despaired of finding her whom he loved, when the sudden shrieks of a female arrested his attention. It was dark, but he could discern the form of his Maude struggling with her uncle Godfrey, and the Lord of the Manor standing by. He drew his bow and shot Godfrey dead on the end of the bridge where his body was found. Thus at liberty, Maude fled, and Walter hoped that she had reached her house in safety, but alas! her foot must have stumbled, and she found a watery grave. The Lord was observed to decamp in an opposite direction.

Fearing prosecution for murder, if discovered, and knowing the revengeful character of the Lord, Walter fled, and no traces of him were found until he came once more to take up his abode amid the scenes of his early youth. He, however, lived not far off. On the main road to Gloucester, which then passed not far from the present "House in the Tree," under an assumed name, he kept an inn, where he lived in the fondly cherished hope of one day seeing the guilty punished. The locality of his residence enabled him to soon learn all that was going on at Swindon. She who by right ought to have been his mother-in-law, found at Walter's inn already an asylum, and there it was she spent those intervals of time when she was absent from her native village. Walter entered ardently into all her plans, and watched and guarded her from the thicket when she was seated on her daughter's grave. He it was who shot forth the arrows which killed both the Lord and his attendant, and thus he avenged on those who had deprived him of one whom he had hoped to have fondly called his own. Thus Walter had lived to see the author of his woes come to an untimely end.

The wish was granted ; Walter Gray  
In Swindon lived for many a day :  
And oft the tear would cloud his eye,  
And oft his breast would heave and sigh,  
When he recounted perils o'er  
That girt him on a distant shore ;  
When he the saddened tale would tell  
Of what the Swindon maid befell.

Wealth when united to a title often exercises an undue influence in localities, and Might too often overcomes Right. But Providence generally orders and overrules the best laid scheme of the most accomplished villain. The Lord, finding that so long as the mother of Maude was living, he could have no peace for his guilty conscience, resolved upon her death, and resorted to the plea of witchcraft to accomplish his purpose. He succeeded, but the same hour that his innocent victim perished in the flames, also witnessed his own most cruel death. He had buried, but a short time previously, his wife, and also his only son and heir. He was the last of his race, and with him died the family title, and the manorial estate soon passed into the hands of strangers. Many generations have come and gone since he met with his well merited death. His name and pedigree, as if by



way of retribution, perished with him. Cheltenham, then an obscure village, has become a large and populous town. New roads have been formed, and changes so great have been effected, that scarcely a relic of the past can be found. But amidst all the revolutions which modern improvements have effected, Maude's Elm to this day occupies its original position: it stands a majestic monument to the memory of injured innocence.

Each year, the Swindon Maidens bound  
A votive wreath the grave around,  
And ever on the First of May,  
The sad recurrent of the day,  
When Margaret, and Maude were both  
Made martyrs unto fiendish wrath,  
They met, and sang this simple lay:

Twine a wreath for the dead  
In her lowly bed:  
Gather the fairest flowers that bloom,  
To weave a garland of rich perfume,  
And solemnly let the token be laid  
On the hallowed grave of the Swindon Maid.  
The Snowdrop bring,  
Wan herald of Spring,  
The Pimpernel, and the Thistle down,  
Lustrous gems of every hue,  
Glistening with morning dew,  
Call to embellish our Floral Crown—  
Twine a wreath for the dead!

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## CHAPTER XXVII.

### Sanitary History.

ONE of the most evident proofs that, as a nation, we are progressing morally and socially, is the attention which the question of the Public Health has excited during the past few years. In this locality the movement has been watched with interest, and the inhabitants, through the medium of a legislative enactment, are reaping the advantages of the most modern discoveries. The past history of the town, as relating to the parochial

regulations for preserving the Public Health, not only demonstrates the improvements which have gone on, step by step, but it also brings to light many interesting incidents connected with three consecutive periods—when the borough was decaying from its ancient importance—when it was rising into popularity by the discovery of its Mineral Waters,—and when it had become “The Queen of Watering Places,” with a large population requiring an “Improvement Act,” to preserve and beautify its natural attractions. The sanitary affairs of the town were formerly managed by officers connected with the Manor Office. During the past century it was partially regulated by successive enactments, until the passing of an Act in 1852, which extends its operations over the entire parish.

#### TOWN IMPROVEMENT ACTS.

The first legal attempt to regulate sanitary affairs was by an Act passed in 1786,—26th George III., intituled “An Act for paving the footways and passages in the Town of Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, and for better cleansing and lighting the said Town; for taking down certain old buildings now standing therein; and for removing and preventing other nuisances and encroachments.” Twenty years afterwards another enactment was deemed necessary, and in 1806, the 46th of George III. came into operation. It was “An Act for amending and enlarging the powers of an act passed in the twenty-sixth year of his present Majesty, for Paving the Footways and Passages in the Town of Cheltenham, in the County of Gloucester, and for better cleansing and lighting the said Town; and for removing and preventing nuisances and annoyances therein.” This continued in force for fifteen years, until repealed by 1 and 2 of George IV., which is dated June 23rd, 1821, and the rapid manner in which the town had increased in population is thus set forth in the preamble:—“And whereas, since the passing of the said mentioned act, the number of the inhabitants and the number of the houses and buildings in the town of Cheltenham, have greatly increased, and the said town has, on account of the salubrity of its air and mineral waters, become a place of great public resort.” Under the powers of this Act, forty-eight Commissioners, self-elected, regulated the parochial cleansing, paving, and lighting

for thirty years. But such was the rapidity with which the town went on increasing in extent and number of inhabitants, that even this modern Act became in time inadequate and inefficient. It was framed for the present, forgetting the future, and in language so ambiguous as to be capable of a two-fold interpretation. Thus, new streets which had been formed since the passing of the Act were not acknowledged by the Commissioners, and were suffered to go unrepaired. The Sewerage, too, was in a dangerous position. In the borough was situate 6,541 houses, out of which number only 736 were belonging to the Cheltenham Sewers Company, so that upwards of 5,000 houses had no legal outlet and might be compelled to stop up their drains and have resort to the containinating practice of cesspools. These private sewers mostly emptied themselves into the Chelt, and so polluted the stream (once so celebrated for its purity as to yield fish in quantity), that effluvia arising from it rendered it a public nuisance. The repair of the public roads was placed in a most anomalous position by the Act, the Commissioners not claiming any jurisdiction over certain roads in the town whose united extent amounted to fifteen miles. For ten years, this portion of the borough was regulated by a "Board of Highways," consisting of ratepayers annually chosen by the ratepayers. This continued until 1846, when its legality having been questioned, a surveyor was annually appointed instead, up to 1852. The ancient hamlets are now essentially a part of the town, and some of the most fashionable houses are situate therein, including Lansdown, Bayshill, and Bath-road. The hamlets of Westall, Sandford, Naunton, Alstone, and Arle, which in fact commence in the centre of the Promenade, were not taken cognizance of by the Commissioners, and had separate surveyors. In a pecuniary point of view, this was most objectionable. Besides the Lamp and Paving Rate of the Commissioners, amounting annually to £5,000, there were separate rates for a portion of the town roads and hamlets, with separate surveyors and collectors. The rate for the township for roads averaged £2,300 annually; for the hamlets of Westall, Sandford, and Naunton, £923; and hamlets of Alstone and Arle, £600. The most important portions of Cheltenham are what is called "private estates." These are Pittville, Lansdown, Montpellier, and Bayshill.

The Commissioners had no controul over the property of these delightful drives, and their continuance in their present attractive form was sorely dependent upon private arrangements, while the owners were subject to annual rent charges far more expensive in their nature than a public rate, and less secure in their tenure in a legal point of view. The residents upon these estates being either partially or wholly exempt from the payment of the Commissioners' rate, as well as some other portions of the town, the burden fell partially upon the residue of the inhabitants. By this system, £43,000 worth of assessments went entirely free from payment: the rateable value of the houses in the parish being £182,000, and the Commissioners' rate extending only to houses whose assessments amounted to £139,568.

The defects in the Commissioners' Act of 1821 became daily more apparent, and produced inconveniences injurious to the interests of the town at large. To remedy the evil a public meeting was convened, at which it was resolved to take advantage of the Public Health Act, 11th and 12th Victoria. The required number of signatures having been obtained, a memorial was forthwith forwarded to the Board of Health, and the result was a local investigation by E. Cressy, Esq., Superintending Inspector. Mr. Cressy opened his court of inquiry at the George Hotel, February 22nd, 1849, and continued sitting daily until he had acquired all the necessary information. In the November following his report was issued, and occupied forty-six closely printed pages. It detailed at length all existing regulations with a most able classification of statistical facts.

The facts of the case having thus been made known through the aid of a government enquiry, the subject was fully discussed in all its bearings. It was however soon discovered that independent of the provisions of the Public Health, there were matters of importance which it would be desirable to incorporate with it, but which could not be legally done. The best mode therefore appeared to apply to Parliament for a local Act founded upon Mr. Cressy's report, with such additional clauses as a fashionable town required. A committee was chosen at a public meeting to carry out this object, consisting of inhabitants representing all interests, trades, and opinions. After a lengthened deliberation they framed a Town Improvement Bill, consisting

of 155 clauses, and introduced it into Parliament in the session of 1851. It was opposed by petition from a portion of the inhabitants, but the petition in its favour received the larger number of signatures. It passed the House of Commons, but was rejected by the House of Lords. The inhabitants in public meeting assembled decided upon again pressing the Bill in the next Session, and re-elected the same committee with power to carry their wishes into effect. A Bill, in substance similar to the previous one, and containing 135 clauses, was presented to the House of Commons in the Session of 1852. It passed both Houses successfully, and on May 28, 1852, received the Royal Assent. It is entitled, "An Act for better paving, draining, cleansing, supplying with water, regulating in regard to markets, interments, hackney carriages, and other purposes, and otherwise improving the Borough of Cheltenham in the County of Gloucester." This Act, which is remarkable for perspicuity, is strictly the product of local talent. S. H. Gael, Esq., was the consulting counsel; Mr. G. E. Williams, the Magistrates' clerk, and Mr. W. H. Gwinnett, the Clerk to the Commissioners, were the solicitors. Viewed in all its relations, the passing of the Town Improvement Act may be regarded as one of the most important events connected with the modern history of Cheltenham. By giving to the ratepayers the power of periodically electing thirty Commissioners, the public will have a guarantee that residents who have an interest in the place will be chosen to manage the local affairs. Armed with power, not alone to prevent but to remove all that can injure health, annoy the inhabitants, or disfigure the town, we doubt not that, as time flows on, good results will be witnessed. The operations of this Act extend to the entire parish, and rich and poor alike will receive its benefits. The Act was put in force immediately upon its passing, and the first meeting of the new Commissioners was held at the Public Office, on June 7, 1852. J. A. Gardner, Esq., the Lord of the Manor, was elected chairman; J. Fallon, Esq., barrister-at-law, vice-chairman; and Mr. G. E. Williams, the first clerk.

The Cheltenham Improvement Act of 1852, is a most voluminous document and shows the amount of pains taken by the original authors in collecting together every thing that could protect the interests of the town. It contains 136 sections,

besides incorporating by reference only, 106 from the two Public Health Acts, 45 from the Commissioners' Clauses Act, 36 from the Towns' Improvement Clauses Act, 58 from the Town Police Clauses Act, 23 from the Cemeteries' Clauses Act, 130 from the Lands' Clauses Consolidation Act, 49 from the Public Baths' Act, 8 from the Poor Rates' Recovery Act, and 88 from the Nuisances' Removal Act. The total number of sections amount to 653. The whole of these valuable clauses were classified and arranged and the immense mass of legal matter published in one volume, in 1853, by a local solicitor, Mr. Septimus Pruen, and it will ever form a most valuable work of reference.

As an illustration of the mode of raising loans for local purposes, and the manner of transacting business under the old Commissioners' Acts, we annex the following advertisement from the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of 1810:—

"At a meeting of the Commissioners, appointed under the Cheltenham Paving Act, holden this day at the Town Hall, in Cheltenham, it was resolved, that in consequence of the large expenditure which has been incurred in the numerous alterations and improvements of the Town, it has become necessary to have recourse to an extraordinary rate for the present year only.

"That therefore the present valuation of the property in the town be increased, in the proportion of adding thirteen pounds to every twenty pounds now rated; and that a rate of five shillings in the pound be raised on the said compound valuation, and assessed accordingly, upon the several houses, shops, offices, gardens, public wells, buildings, tenements, and premises chargeable by the Act; and that the Clerk do give notice, that such rate will be allowed by the Commissioners, at their next meeting on the first day of January next; unless in the meantime a sum shall be raised sufficient in the opinion of the Commissioners to render such a rate unnecessary.

"11th December, 1810.

"At the same meeting, the following gentlemen agreed to advance the sum of one hundred pounds each by way of loan at £5 per cent. viz.—Doctor Jenner, Colonel Riddell, Thomas Gray, Esq., Doctor Jameson, William Read, Esq., Thos. Pruen, Esq., B. Wells, Esq., W. H. Jessop, Esq., Mr. Edward Smith, Francis Welles, Esq., T. Gwinnett, Esq., and C. Newmarch, Esq."

**PUBLIC SEWERS.**—Until 1833, with the exception of a few ancient drains claimed by the Commissioners, the only sewers for the town were the open brooks and ditches and private drains. A joint-stock company, comprising residents interested in the locality, was formed, and went to Parliament for a bill to legalize their object. On April 20, 1833, the royal assent was given to the bill, 3 William IV., "For the better sewage, cleansing, and draining the town of Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester." The great want of such an Act may be

gleaned from the preamble:—"Whereas the town of Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, has greatly increased in houses and buildings, and the same is become large and populous, but for want of sufficient and proper common sewers and drains, much inconvenience has arisen, and is still likely to arise; but such inconvenience might be prevented, and the health and comfort of the inhabitants greatly improved, and much public benefit obtained, if proper and suitable common sewers were made for effectually cleansing and draining the said town." This incorporation was styled the "Cheltenham Sewers' Company." It was empowered to raise capital of £7,600, and to increase it by a further sum of £5,000, and to raise £4,000 by mortgage. The length of the main sewer in the High Street is 2,200 yards, and of the sewers which branch from it into the adjacent streets, 3,692 yards, making a total of 5,892 yards of sewers. These were executed in a most substantial manner at a cost of £7,600. In 1849 it was stated in evidence at the Government inquiry, that the number of houses which used the sewers of the Company was 736, and that the annual amount of the sewers' rates paid by the owners was £718 7s. The houses thus benefitted were situate in 19 streets. The increasing wants of the town required a still more effectual sewerage. Powers were properly taken under the Improvement Act of 1852, to sewer the entire parish. To carry this desirable object into effect the Commissioners purchased all the property of the Sewers' Company, so that all the drainage is now under the control of the body corporate.

This purchase, with the plans since adopted with regard to the sewage, has tended to perpetuate that celebrity which it has so long enjoyed, by removing and preventing all causes of pollution. The rights of the Sewers' Company and all their property and interest in the matter passed into the hands of the Improvement Commissioners, in 1857, for the sum of £9,000. The last of the additional sewers since added, and the extent of sewage may be learnt from the Borough Surveyor's Report in 1857:—

								Miles.	Qrs.	Yds.
Brick Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	0	310
Pipe Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	245
Together	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	3	115

	£	s.	d.
I estimate these to cost ... ..	13,086	2	0
Add to this the cost of the purchase of the Sewer Company's works ... ..	9,000	0	0
Making a total of ... ..	22,086	2	0

The extent and operations of the new Improvement Act is manifested by the annual financial statements issued by the corporate body. In the account published in July, 1862, the receipts and expenditure for the past year are stated to be as follows;—

*Abstract of the Receipts and Payments of the Cheltenham Improvement Commissioners, from the 30th day of September, 1860, to the 30th day of September, 1861.*

RECEIPTS.—Balance of last Account, £3,590 14s. 5d.; Commissioners' Rate £15,001 6s. 6d.; Sale of Ashes, per Inspector, £106 12s. 10d.; Sale of Manure, per Surveyor, £134 0s. 6d.; Licences, per Mr. G. E. Williams, £38 15s. 0d.; Street Repairs, £264 13s. 11d.; House Drainage Works, £113 15s. 0d.; John and Samuel Harpur for Road Repairs, £60; Sundries, £12 10s. 0d.—Total, £19,322 8s. 2s.

PAYMENTS.—Highways, £4 012 7s. 1d.; Scavenger, £1,965 6s. 3d.; Pavioar, £602 1s. 8d.; Salaries, £1,439 14s. 0d.; Tradesmen's Bills £165 17s. 5d.; Rates and Taxes, £50 16s. 7d.; Fire Brigade, £23 10s. 6d.; Gas Company, £4,318 16s. 7d.; Annuitants, £240 0s. 10d.; Rents £132 18s. 2d.; Fire Plugs, £248 4s. 0d.; Sundries viz., Borings, Flushing Sewers, and Petty Disbursements, £106 18s. 10d.; Repairs to the Arch over the Chelt, £93 6s. 6d.; Valuation of Literary Institution, £25 4s. 0d.; Messrs. Lloyd, Price and Co., Interest and Repayments on Loans, £799 1s. 4d.; Election Expenses, £88 9s. 6d.; Sewer Tanks, £354 9s. 0d.; Fairview Street Improvement, £68 7s. 11d.; House Drainage Works, £255 3s. 1d.; Special Repairs to Streets, £586 16s. 8d.; Mr. Hawkesley, for inspecting site for Cemetery, £31 10s. 0d.; Balance in Treasurer's hands, £3,688 8s. 3d.—Total, £19,322 8s. 2d.

#### BURIAL GROUNDS.

The Burial Grounds within the parish, together have an area of 5 acres, 3 roods, and 32 perches, and the New Cemetery on the parish boundary 18 acres. The most ancient is the ground directly around the Parish Church, which, until the erection of Trinity Church in 1826, was the only place of interment according to the rites of the Church of England. That portion of the churchyard which terminates with the walk leading to the Well Walk and Chester Walk, is crowded with memorials of the dead, as is also the church within; and from the designs of some of the decayed stones, it is evident that the spot has been used as a place of sepulchre ever since its first consecration.



This ground, until within the past half century, was private property, being held by the lay impropriator, J. Pitt, Esq., of whom the parish bought it in 1806, for the sum of £100. This being inadequate to meet the wants of the population, an additional piece of land adjoining was purchased for £700. This was immediately facing Obester Walk, and the vestry meeting to sanction the purchase was held on August 31st, 1812, the ratepayers agreeing to pay the amount in annual instalments of £100, with interest at the rate of five per cent. The ground is filled with tombs and vaults, where repose the remains of many persons of note, and among the number, the mother of the late celebrated Duchess of St. Albans, and several ancestors of James Wood, the rich banker, of Gloucester, who were large local owners of property. The rapid increase in population soon forced the ratepayers to seek further means of meeting the demand for interments. In 1829, the matter was discussed in successive vestry meetings, and it was ultimately resolved to take advantage of the Church Building Acts for raising the means of purchasing ground. By virtue of the powers of 3 George IV., the New Burial Ground in High Street, at the bottom of the town, was conveyed upon trust for the parish; the sum of £4,500 was the cost of purchase and erection of Chapel thereon, which was raised by loans of £150 and £100 each from persons resident in the town. This was secured by bonds, one of which was to be paid off annually, with interest at the rate of five per cent., and a rate to be annually levied to effect that object until the whole amount should be discharged. The New Burial Ground was consecrated and opened on Sept. 19, 1831. The deed authorising the purchase and empowering the Churchwarden to levy rates for the redemption of the purchase money is among the Vestry documents, and is as follows :—

“Whereas, the Inhabitants of Cheltenham, in the County of Gloucester, being desirous of procuring a Burial Ground for the said Parish, in addition to that already existing, it was agreed at a meeting of the Parishioners of the said Parish of Cheltenham, in Vestry assembled, to purchase the ground from Ann Ballinger and others.

“Now, We, his Majesty's Commissioners for Building New Churches, acting under the authority of the said several Acts passed for building and promoting the building of additional Churches in populous Parishes, being of opinion that the said Pieces or Parcels of Land are sufficient and properly situated for the purpose aforesaid; and approving of the times and proportions which have been

agreed upon for the repayment of the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Pounds; do hereby, in pursuance of all powers and authorities whatsoever vested in us for this purpose, authorise and empower the said Parish of Cheltenham, to procure and purchase the said Pieces or Parcels of Land, at the price of Three Thousand Pounds, for the purpose aforesaid, and to fence and enclose the same; and to make, levy, raise, and collect Rates, for the purpose of raising and repaying the said sum of Three Thousand Pounds to be paid for the purchase; and the said sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Pounds, the cost of enclosing the said Land, with Interest at the rate of Five Pounds per cent. per annum, at the times and in the proportions aforesaid; and of paying the Expenses incidental to the said Purchase.

"Given under our Common Seal, this Fifth day of February, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty."

Like the two preceding purchases by the parish, the entire of the debt on this extensive cemetery has been paid off. At the Easter Vestry meeting in 1858, the auditors reported that "the whole of the bonds belonging to the Burial Ground, amounting to £4,500, were discharged, and that the churchwardens would in future have at their disposal an income of £200 annually arising from vaults and graves." At the close of the meeting the following resolution was carried unanimously, with acclamation:—Moved by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Goding, "That the thanks of this Meeting be tendered to William Hasell, Esq., for his past services as Parish Churchwarden, and more especially for the successful efforts which he has made during the eleven years of his holding office, to entirely liquidate the debt upon the New Cemetery, and thereby rendering it the free and unencumbered property of the parish for ever."—*Cheltenham Examiner*.

In 1861, it having been estimated that only a short period would elapse before this very suitable cemetery would become full, the Improvement Commissioners took the matter into consideration. This corporate body having powers under their Act to purchase ground for interments, advertised for a site. Among the many which were offered, the choice fell unanimously upon a plot of land in Prestbury, the property of the Rev. J. Edwards. This New Cemetery is eighteen acres in extent, and was purchased at the rate of £190 per acre. It is situated just on the margin of the parish boundary, and is easily approached from any part of the town. The sale was ratified by the Commissioners in June, 1861; and in July, 1862, Mr. Knight's plan (a resident architect) was accepted for laying out the ground.

According to the Board of Health returns, the extent, situation, and designation of the burial grounds in Cheltenham are as annexed :—

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Extent.</i>		
		<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
St. Mary's Church ... ..	High-street ... ..	1	1	11
New Burial Ground ... ..	High-street ... ..	2	3	0
Trinity Church ... ..	Portland-street ... ..	0	1	12
St. Philip's Church ... ..	Norwood-street ... ..	0	0	35
St. Peter's Church ... ..	Tewkesbury-road ... ..	0	0	20
Cheltenham Chapel ... ..	High-street ... ..	0	1	18
Unitarian Chapel ... ..	Bays-hill ... ..	0	0	14
The Jews' Ground ... ..	Tewkesbury-road ... ..	0	0	14
The Quakers' Ground ... ..	Grove-street ... ..	0	0	14
Bethel Baptist Chapel ... ..	Chapel-street ... ..	0	0	22
Wesleyan Chapel ... ..	St. George's-street... ..	0	0	38
Highbury Chapel ... ..	Grosvenor-street. ... ..	0	0	16
Tabernacle Chapel ... ..	Bath-road ... ..	0	0	18
New Cemetery ... ..	Prestbury ... ..	18	0	0

#### THE WATER WORKS.

The geological structure of the locality enables the inhabitants to obtain an abundant supply of water. The Cotswold Hills, which surround the town like an amphitheatre, abound with springs, and from the subsoil of retentive clay which forms their base, they gush forth, so that every dip of strata has its rill, and every valley its brook. The oolite rocks, which compose these hills, form the great storehouse of nature for collecting the falling rain, and converting it into, what is called, "hill water." The lias formation beneath not admitting of percolation, the filtering water necessarily escapes from any opening which may present itself. Hence the origin of so many pure springs in the vicinity. The far-famed "Seven Springs," the source of the great river Thames, from whence the Cheltenham Water Works Company derive their supplies, is situate in the neighbourhood. The lias forms the soil upon which the town is built, and is the retentive basin of the sand bed—the source from whence the wells are supplied. The number of houses situate on the sand bed are 4,806, and on the clay beds there are 1,735. Besides the inhabitants who are dependent upon the pump water contained in the sand beds, there are nine public pumps, belonging to the Commissioners, which, on the average, supply 30,000 gallons daily.

Until within the past thirty years, the town was wholly

supplied by the means of wells sunk into sand beds, and the many beautiful springs of the suburb were suffered to flow on unnoticed. The great increase in population at length forced attention to the subject, and the result was the establishment of the Cheltenham Water Works Company. The chief operations of this company are carried on at an eminence adjacent to Hewlett's or Agg's Hill. The ground is enclosed, and the entire works have been executed in the most substantial manner. From this spot, a most extensive and picturesque view of the town may be obtained, and "the Reservoir," as it is called, is well worthy of inspection. The water which constitutes the company's "stock" is obtained from the adjacent hills of Northfield, Charlton, and Dowdeswell. According to the unanimous opinion of medical men, the water supplied by the company is of a high state of purity. It has been analysed by Dr. Lyon Playfair, and by resident physicians and chemists,—among the number, Dr. Boisragon, Mr. Moss, and Mr. Horsley. The Waterworks Company are empowered by Act of Parliament, passed in 1824, and by an amended Act in 1847. The wants of the town prior to the formation of the Company, and the great necessity for its operations, may be inferred from the preamble of the Act, which runs thus :

"Whereas the town of Cheltenham is at present scantily supplied with pure water ; and, whereas, the said town has, of late years, become very populous, and is greatly increased in houses and buildings, and is likely to continue to increase ; and for the want of a sufficient supply of spring water for domestic, and other purposes, the inhabitants thereof, and persons resorting thereto, are subject to much inconvenience, and would be liable to great danger and most calamitous consequences in cases of accidents by fire ; but such inconveniences and danger might be prevented, and much public benefit obtained, if water from the springs arising so near the said town, were conveyed, by means of pipes, to the said town and suburbs thereof. Dated June 17, 1824."

By this Act, the capital created was £17,500, with power to raise, in addition, £13,750 ; and, by the amended Act, the Company was authorised to obtain £25,000 more. Under the original Act, £49,100 3s. 6d. was expended upon the works ; and under the amended Act, up to the year 1849, £12,495 8s. 3d. more, making a total of £61,595 11s. 9d. The reservoirs are so elevated, as to supply water to the highest houses in the town without the aid of machinery, being 100 ft. higher than Bayshill, the highest point of supply, and 240 ft. higher than the Hospital, the lowest point of supply. The two

smaller reservoirs hold 288,000 cubic ft. of water, and the large one 2,286,900, thus making a total of 2,574,900, or more than two millions and a half cubic feet of water. The large reservoir is open; and, when filled, presents a fine sheet of water, covering an area of 3 acres of land, and having a depth of 17 ft. 6 in. It was constructed after designs by Mr. H. Dangerfield, the late borough surveyor, and will contain 9,000,000 gallons. The smallest is 80 ft. square, and 12 ft. deep; the second is 150 ft. by 160 ft., and 12 ft. deep. The three reservoirs hold together 14,000,000 gallons. The water is conveyed into the town, a distance of upwards of two miles, by 592 yards of 7-in., and 3,321 yards of 6-in. iron main. Its distribution afterwards is by 2,842 yards of 5-in., 6,031 yards of 4-in., 22,686 yards of 3-in., 1,746 yards of 2½-in., and 2,023 yards of 2-in. iron mains; the total quantity of main being about 26 miles, 1,721 yards. Upwards of 2,000 houses are supplied by the Company, consuming daily 146,888 gallons, average 72 gallons per house. Thus 53,836,120 gallons are annually distributed, being nearly four times the quantity which the reservoirs contain, which fact shows the value of these extensive works to the town at large. There are nearly 200 plugs belonging to the Company, available in case of fire. The springs which supply the reservoirs flow freely from October to May; but during the months of June, July, August, and September, they are at times nearly dried up. The Northfield spring produces 52 gallons per minute, and those at Dowdeswell and Charlton 32 gallons during the last-named months. This estimate is founded upon the extent and size of the reservoirs up to 1857. In that year, a new reservoir was commenced, at Hewletts, 25 ft. in depth, which has materially increased the Company's supply; and in 1862, another one was resolved upon, at the base of Leckhampton Hill. The past history of the Company's works, and the necessity for a further enlargement of the same to meet the requirements of an increasing population, may be gleaned from the very able speech of the counsel for the promoters of a new Act, made before the Parliamentary Committee, from which we publish extracts:—

“Mr. Hope Scott proceeded to open the case on the part of the promoters. The learned gentleman observed that the present was a bill to consolidate and extend the powers of the Cheltenham Water Works' Company, and to enable them the better to supply with water the several parishes of Cheltenham, Charlton Kings, Leckhampton, and Prestbury, otherwise Prestbury, all in the county of

Gloucester, and for other purposes. The present supply of water dated from the year 1824, and was based upon the circumstance that the wells of the town were deficient in quantity, and were likely to become still more so as the population increased. Cheltenham is situate upon a basin of wet sand; and in many instances where a well was constructed, the sewers ran into it. To say mostly that the supply could be got only by the pump handle and the bucket, the quality of the water was as bad as its quantity was deficient. Upon a recital of these facts, a bill was passed, and a company was established, to secure a better supply of water. The capital of the company was originally £17,000, with a borrowing power of £5,000. This first company began with conduits and pipes, and the erection of a reservoir 200 ft. above the level of Cheltenham at Charlton Kings. The first act comprised merely the town of Cheltenham. In 1839, another act was obtained for extending its operations to Charlton Kings and Prestbury. By the same act also, the company was empowered to construct works at Dowdeswell and Charlton Kings springs. They were also empowered to make an additional reservoir, and they constructed one next to their original reservoir. They created fresh shares, and had fresh borrowing powers. In 1847, the company again went to parliament for increased powers, and they had now the power to raise £55,675 in shares, and £18,541 on mortgage, making a total capital of £74,166, of which there had been raised the sum of £50,750, viz. £45,150 by shares, and only £5,600 on mortgage. The sum of £23,216 was still unraised. The last act required the company to construct an additional reservoir, and they built one capable of holding twelve millions of gallons of water. He should be able to show that the company had dealt fairly and lightly by the public, while, for some years, they had derived 7 or 8 per cent.; but it should be borne in mind, that there were many unremunerative years in the first stage of the company's existence,—they had no dividend for the first 6 or 7 years. In 1852, an act passed which altered, in many respects, the position of the company. He alluded to the 'Cheltenham Improvement Act,' whose commissioners were invested with very large powers. Not only were they empowered to complete the sewerage of the town, but they also acquired the power to construct Water Works. Such powers were now given every local act; but the intention of the legislature was, that no public body should undertake the supply of water so long as a private body could afford it at a reasonable price. He believed there was no disposition on the part of the Town Commissioners to interfere with this salutary provision. The Commissioners had constructed a large extent of sewerage works; and, without an increased supply of water, these works could not be made effective. Accordingly, in June, 1853, a report, made by Mr. Henry Dangerfield, their surveyor, was laid before the Commissioners, and by them forwarded to the Water Works' Company. From that report, it appeared that Mr. Dangerfield considered a proper supply of water for the town to be 700,000 gallons per day. At the present moment, the works of the company were not capable of supplying one-third of that quantity, and could not do that on the constant pressure system—the water being now laid on little more than an hour in each day. Cisterns became necessary, and the supply was by no means good. The quantity did not amount to more than four gallons per head per day, while the lowest supply deemed necessary by competent judges is 20 gallons per head per day. In Manchester, the daily supply is 40 gallons per head; and in Glasgow, it is 60 gallons per head. No doubt manufacturing towns require more water than such towns as Cheltenham, but 20 gallons was a very moderate estimate. The street watering was carried on to an extent of luxury, rendered necessary by the nature of the place. The water procured from the wells is hard and bad, the town being built on a bed of sand stone. It was also limited in quantity, and had lately much decreased by the sewerage works. The deep sewers dried up the wells. The present supply of the company was

from springs issuing from the side of the Cotswold Hills. The geological formation of the country was such, that, while it had few streams, it abounded in springs. The North springs yield a daily supply of 75,000 gallons, but from that must be deducted 9,000 gallons to parties having claims. Those springs were taken under the first act. The Dowdeswell spring was taken under the second act, and it yields 43,000 per day, subject to a small deduction for cattle. The Charlton spring yielded 10,000 gallons per day. This was all the Parliamentary water the company could take, and it amounted to 128,000 gallons per day. By a contract with Mr. Billings, who appeared as an opponent, but whose interests would be respected, that quantity was increased to 168,000 gallons, which gave an average of four gallons per head per day. The means of storing the water were very abundant. One reservoir would hold 400,000 gallons, another 15,000 gallons, and a third would hold 12,000,000 gallons. All that the company wanted was an increase in the water supply itself. The water now supplied was admitted to be excellent, showing only 11 degrees of hardness, and fit for domestic use. The spring proposed to be taken was of the same character, and there would be an abundant pressure from the head."

In order to illustrate the early efforts made to obtain a supply of pure water, we extract from the *Cheltenham Chronicle*, of 1810, the following advertisement:—

"Should the inhabitants of Cheltenham think it of any utility, I will engage to supply the whole town with Soft River Water, at one guinea per year each dwelling-house; with engine cocks, pipes, fire plugs, &c., &c., complete. The engine shall throw two hogsheads per minute, when required, in case of fire. People who wish such a plan to be brought forward, and would have the water laid into their dwellings, must send in their names to me, any time before the 25th December next, in order to form an idea of the expenses of erecting such Works; and should it meet due approbation, the whole will be completed by the 1st of May. by their obedient, humble servant,

"JOSEPH HORWOOD,  
"Engineer.

"December 5th, 1810."

In November. 1861, Mr. Horsley, the County Analyst, published the following favourable analysis of the water supplied by the Company from their reservoirs. The total quantity of solid contents per gallon, was—

	Grains.	Organic Matter.
In 1851 - - - - -	9	including $1\frac{1}{2}$
In 1861 - - - - -	$11\frac{1}{2}$	" 2

*The following is a complete Analysis of the Hill Water at the present time:*

	Grains.
Carbonates of Lime and Magnesia - - - - -	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Muriate of Lime - - - - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Sulphate of Lime - - - - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Organic matter derived from vegetables - - - - -	2
" " animals - - - - -	none.
Per gallon	$11\frac{1}{2}$

## THE GAS WORKS.

A few years since, the High Street of a night presented the appearance of a village; flickering oil lamps illumined the darkness, whilst the town at large, except when done at private expense, went unlighted. Iron posts, belonging to private lamps, yet remain in the front palisades of the Royal Crescent, and elsewhere. An Act enabling the Commissioners to light the town, was passed in 1786; and on January 16, 1787, a contract was entered into for erecting one hundred and twenty lamps, twenty-five yards apart. This contract provided that the lamps should be lighted with oil in the autumn and winter months only, to burn until midnight; but, "when the moon rises at ten o'clock, or before then, the lamps are to burn bright only one hour after the moon rises." This system of lighting was so imperfect, that, in 1810, a proposition was actually made that, owing to the state of the streets during the evening, and to prevent accident, the many black posts on the edge of the foot-path should be painted white! In 1818, some of the influential inhabitants went to Parliament for a Gas Act; and the Royal assent was given, April 6, 1819, to a bill "for lighting with gas the town and parish of Cheltenham, and precincts thereof, in the county of Gloucester." The capital of the company was £15,000 in shares of £50 each, with power to raise an additional £10,000.

The first application of gas for promoting the interest and comfort of the fashion of the place, was by the lighting of the Montpellier Promenades on July 21, 1825. On the opening of an evening service at the Parish Church, in 1838, the company offered to supply gratuitously the gas for lighting the edifice. On Sunday evening, Jan. 13, in that year, the church was accordingly lighted with gas, and the company continued to supply it, without any charge to the congregation, up to the temporary closing of the church in 1859. The company also supply gratuitously the gas lamps over the Sebastopol cannons, opposite the Queen's Hotel, and the clock in a tower rising from the centre of the company's works, illumined by gas during the night, which is of great public convenience to the locality, mostly occupied by the humbler classes.

The first lighting of the town is thus recorded in the *Cheltenham Chronicle*, of Oct. 1, 1818:—"On Tuesday, Messrs. Kelly, Baitley, and Mauley, fulfilled their contract by lighting



the town with gas. . . . On the 19th we were gratified by seeing the whole of the High Street illuminated by this beautiful light, which assumed its usual brilliancy towards midnight, when the atmospheric air had escaped from the main pipes."

We believe that the Cheltenham Gas Act was the first public enactment passed in England. Gas had been used in Birmingham by the celebrated Watt, the inventor of the steam engine, and by several shopkeepers in that town. "In London, it first made its appearance in 1816. St. James' Park was first lighted by that means, which did not become general till 1823." (Rev. S. Lysons.) Gloucester followed the example of Cheltenham, and obtained an Act in the year 1819.

The inventor of gas lights, according to Chambers, was a Frenchman, Philippe Le Bon, an engineer of roads, who prepared his gas from distilling wood during combustion, in 1785; and it is a singular coincidence that this invention, although of French origin, was not adopted in France until the year that the Cheltenham Act was obtained—1818. The following extract from *Goding's Cheltenham*, 1852, gives an account of the company's works as existing at that time:—

"The gas works on the Tewkesbury Road, occupy an enclosure of two acres. The chimney, so prominent all around the vicinity, is 118 ft. in height. Forest and Welch coals are used in the manufacture of gas. The works contain a retort house, where there are thirty two ovens, or retorts. There are ten dry purifiers, whose united area is 370 feet; there are three times this number of superficial feet on which the lime lies two inches in thickness, each of the purifiers having three tiers. The four gasometers severally contain 28,000, 24,000, 15,000, and 15,000 cubic feet, or together 82,000 cubic feet. During the year, the average of coal used is 3,313 tons, from which 28,962,200 cubic feet of gas are obtained. There are now 786 lamps in the streets of the town, supplied by this company with gas, at the public expense. They are the property of the commissioners acting under the Town Improvement Act, who contract for lighting the same, and charge the amount upon the borough rate. Independent of these, there are lamps attached to estates and residences. The number of private consumers is nearly one thousand."

Large as this increase may appear compared with the past, the size and powers of the works have, since then, been more than doubled. The works are now under the management of W. Esson, Esq., a gentleman who has had considerable experience in Scotland, and under whom the latest improvements in science have been adopted in the manufacture.

The large increase in the size of the town rendered it necessary for the company to obtain more extended powers. Consequently a new Act was obtained in June, 1856. It was stated at a commissioners' meeting in July 14, 1858, that the company's capital was £56,000, and that they received £4,200 annually for gas supplied to the public lamps. The commissioners' report issued in July, 1861, shows that the cost for public lamps for the previous year, was £4,299. The estimated cost for the year 1862, was £4,600, the number of lamps having been increased to upwards of 800. The value of the company's shares has greatly increased, as shown by the prices obtained at public auctions, where, in 1857, the £100 share realized £190; and in 1861, the same shares were sold for £196, or nearly double the original cost. The average interest paid to shareholders for many years past, has been eight per cent., besides a bonus. The present extent and powers of the works may be inferred from the following official statement :—

“The area covered by the works is nearly five acres. The carbonizing power is equal to 500,000 cubic feet of gas per day, with arrangements for more than double that amount. The condensing, washing, and purifying capacities, are proportionate to the carbonizing power, and permitting of corresponding extension. The present storage or gas-holding capacity, is 400,000 cubic feet, and is being enlarged to fully double that quantity. The distributing power of the street mains is equal to the demand, and is constantly being enlarged and extended.”

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

**Chronological Events connected with the Town and  
Neighbourhood,**

COMPILED EXPRESSLY FOR "NORMAN'S HISTORY OF CHELTENHAM."

## INTRODUCTION.

It may be as well for the better understanding of the following Chronology, to explain that Cheltenham appears to have been an important military station during the **EARLY BRITISH**, the **ROMAN**, the **SAXON**, and the commencement of the **NORMAN** periods. In those predatory and unsettled times, the inhabitants were in the habit of seeking refuge in periods of danger in the entrenched encampments on the surrounding hills; and, of course, whatever tribes obtained possession of these encampments were able to dominate over the inhabitants of the adjacent plain. The town appears to have suffered severely during the Civil Wars, and from that epoch of its history commences a long period of decline and comparative insignificance. In the reign of Elizabeth, on the petition of the inhabitants on the ground of poverty, the right which the town had long possessed of sending two members to Parliament fell into disuetude; and from that time until towards the close of the eighteenth century it appears to have degenerated into the condition of a mere village. Thus, in 1666 the inhabitants numbered only 1,500, and the inhabited houses 321. While 180 years later, in 1797, the inhabitants had only increased to 2,700, and the houses to 530. About this time, however, the discovery of the mineral waters gave an extraordinary impetus to its extension and prosperity; land which was before merely pasture and tillage became covered with streets, promenades, and villas. In 1811 the inhabitants had increased to upwards of 8,000; in 1821 to 13,388; in 1831, to 22,942; in 1841, to 36,617; while in 1861, the census for the parish alone gave a return of 39,590 inhabitants, and 7,013 inhabited houses. Other returns during the same period give similar results. Thus in 1559 the yearly entries of baptisms, marriages, and burials were respectively 20-6 and 32; these numbers continued with scarcely any increase for the next 200 years, as we find in 1731 the returns were 26-16 and 32; in 1805, they had only increased to 90-49-83; while in 1832, there were 635 baptisms, 258 marriages, and 415 burials.

From these figures it will be seen that the present epoch of the town's prosperity dates from the accidental discovery of its mineral waters, now upwards of a century ago. It was this which first brought royalty—and that influx of nobility and fashion which follows the train of royalty—to the then unknown and insignificant village; and although the fame of its waters has now in some degree subsided, it has ever since continued a place of fashionable resort; while the establishment of its many noble educational institutions,—its College, its Grammar School, its Normal School, and its Ladies College,—has made it a most desirable place of permanent residence, and greatly added to its material prosperity.

It should be stated that the events recorded in the following chronology are partly culled from the preceding HISTORY, and partly from the newspapers of the day. Mr. Goding must, therefore, not be held as vouching for the correctness of any facts, or statements, or opinions, which are not contained in the body of the work itself.

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#### CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS.

**THE BRITISH ERA.**—Up to the middle of the first century of the Christian Era the country round Cheltenham, as well as the other parts of the Island, was exclusively inhabited by the Ancient Britons. The "History" records numerous instances of the discovery of fortifications, cromlechs, sepulchres, urns, coins, bones, and the rude implements of warfare, in use among that ancient race. Coins of Queen Boadicea, found in the neighbourhood, are still in the possession of local antiquarians.

**A.D., 43. THE ROMAN PERIOD.**—The Romans conquered this part of the country in the middle of the first century, and they held their conquest for a period of 400 years. We read that in the year 43 the Roman General Plautius attacked the Britons' army and completely routed them, and drove them from the Cotswolds; the Emperor Claudius himself capturing the City of Gloucester, which was thenceforth named after him, *Cleuvum* or *Claudia*. The conquerors took possession of all the encampments on the surrounding hills, and enlarged, altered, and generally converted them into Roman military stations. The Roman additions to the British encampments, along the Cotswolds, may still be readily traced. They established a chain of watch-towers and posts on the Leckhampton, Cleve, and Nottingham Hills. They also established great military roads of which the "Ermine-street" between Gloucester and Cirencester, the "foss-way" through Cirencester and over the Cotswolds towards Scotland, and the "Ickniel-street" which formed a route for marching into Wales, are in existence at the present day. (History, pp. 12—15.) Milner in his History of England says that "the Dobuni (tribes inhabiting Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire) gladly received the Roman yoke to relieve themselves from the oppression of their neighbours."

**A.D. 50.** About this year Christianity is believed to have been first preached in the neighbourhood. Lysons says, "Gloucestershire was probably the first county of England to embrace the Gospel." The same writer says that of the 325 parishes in the county, in upwards of one-third Roman remains have been

discovered; and he brings forward arguments to prove that the Gospel was preached in Gloucester by the Apostle Paul himself. (History, pp. 12—24.)

280. Vineyards are spoken of as having been planted at this time in the neighbourhood of Cheltenham. Abundant proofs are on record that at a later time they were in existence and yielded large quantities of wine, much of which was exported to foreign countries. The cultivation of the willow "for binding their vines" shows that these vineyards were cultivated by the Romans; and the mention of "selected places for vineyards" occurs in the earliest Anglo-Saxon charters which refer to this part of Gloucestershire. (History, p. 25.) In proof that the soil and climate of Gloucester then were considered, from very early times, to be exceedingly fruitful, we quote the following passage from "Fuller's Ancient Worthies"—"Some say that this shire was anciently the most fruitful portion of all England; and they say now that such is the fertility of the soil near Slimbridge, that in spring time, let it be bit bare to the roots, and laid there over night, will be covered with new-grown grass by the morning."

A.D. 577. THE SAXON PERIOD.—The Saxons under Clovis and Cuthwine defeated the Romans in a great battle at Derham, in this county, and thenceforward became masters of the Cotswolds and the adjacent country, including the two Roman cities of Gloucester and Cirencester.

584. First Saxon King ruled over the towns of the Mercian Kingdom, including Cheltenham. The town occupied a central position between the two royal Mercian palaces at Gloucester and Winchcomb.

790. A Priory of Benedictine Monks founded about this date; the site of the building is now occupied by the houses Nos. 403 and 404, High-street.

803. At a synod held in this year at Cleveshoe, the Priory at Cheltenham was the subject of warm discussion.

888. A monastery dedicated to St. Michael and founded by King Offa in the neighbouring village of Cleeve, was granted in this year to the Bishop of Wicia by King Alfred the Great. (History, p. 54.)

1041. King Edward the Confessor became Lord of the Manor of Cheltenham, and granted it a charter. The tenants of the Manor at that time had under them a number of *servi*, or slaves, in a state of absolute bondage.

1046. William the Conqueror became Lord of the Manor, and made considerable additions to its extent and population. The total area after these additions was about 1 200 acres; the area at the present time is 3,357 acres.

1080. In this year William the Conqueror held his Parliament at Gloucester at which the survey of England, known as Doom-day Book, was decided on. In 1084 and 1085 the King and his Court were again in the neighbourhood several days.

1084. At a synod held this year mention is made of a "Priory" and also of "a Church and its Chapels at Chintenhām."

1086. Domesday Book completed. In this document the town is described as being "Terra Regis," or King's land, and is spelt "Cheintenhām;" in 1120, the name on the Cirencester Abbey Rolls is spelt "Chinte-he;" in 1143, it is spelt "Chilt;" and it was not until the Manor Act of 1625 that it is found spelt as at present "Cheltenham."

1087. William Rufus became Lord of the Manor.

1117. On two houses adjoining the ancient market-house being pulled down, in 1807, a massive stone was discovered profusely ornamented with Norman devices, and with the date 1107 clearly legible. The remains of a Norman foundation, of about the same date, have been discovered near the north porch of the Parish Church.

1110. Henry I. became Lord of the Manor.

1115. Died, Hardinge, son of second King of Denmark. He came over

with the Conqueror, took the name of Fitzhardinge, married Eva, the Conqueror's niece, and settled in Bristol, where he became a Canon, and founded St. Augustine's Abbey, now attached to Bristol Cathedral, where he lies buried. His son, Maurice, married the daughter of Roger de Berkeley, and became the founder of "the noble House of Berkeley." (History, p. 86.)

1133. Curacy of Cheltenham given to Cirencester Abbey; soon after this it was enriched with six estates, one of which was given by Sir Walter Hawkes, the first local Crusader.

1135. The Manor passed to King Stephen, who held it until 1154.

1154. Henry II. and Queen Eleanor became its joint possessors. In the same year Walter de Hereford took it on lease, and held it until 1156.

1154. Mention is again made of vineyards being still cultivated in the neighbourhood.

1177. Jane Clifford, known in history as "Fair Rosamond," from Rosamundi, or the rose of the world, from her incomparable beauty, died in the Nunnery of Gostow, aged 37. She was daughter of Lord Walter Clifford, of Frampton-on-Severn, who endowed the Nunnery with the rental for ever of a meadow and mill out of his manor of Frampton.

1190. The churches of Leckhampton and Charlton, "made subject to the mother church of Cheltenham," by the Bishop of Hereford. Two chantries at Arle and Hatherley, and the recently restored Norman Chapel at Southam, were under the same jurisdiction (History, p. 155.)

1199. King John became Lord of the Manor.

1200—1300. Supposed date of Piscina in Parish Church.

1200—1300. Supposed date of ancient cross in the Parish Churchyard.

1200—1300. Supposed date of two stone coffins found in Parish Church, May, 1860, supposed to be coffins of Abbots of the Monastery, and now exhibited in the Churchyard. (History, pp. 162—166.)

1200—1300. By the Ancient Charters Inhabitants of the Manor were exempt from tolls and taxes; they also had their own courts, with extensive criminal jurisdiction, and elected their own coroner. The "gallows" stood in the present Hale's-road.

1216. The Manor passed to King Henry III.

1216. King Henry III. gave the Manor to William Long Espre, the illegitimate son of the celebrated "Fair Rosamond," and who afterwards became Earl of Salisbury, and had assisted at the coronation of the "Infant King," at Gloucester, in 1216.

1250. The date "1250." found inscribed on a beam in Arle Chapel.

1346. Aug. 21, was fought the celebrated battle of Cressy. Sir Richard de-la-Bere obtained his family crest—five ostrich feathers issuing out of a ducal coronet,—for gallantly saving the life of Edward the Black Prince on that eventful day. Lord Chandos, whose remains are interred at Sudeley Castle, and several members of the families of the Berkeleys, the Sherbournes, the Hicks, and the Tryes, fought under the Black Prince. A body of Gloucestershire "Volunteers," under Maurice Lord Berkeley, formed part of the victorious army; and Smith, in his "Lives of the Berkeleys," highly eulogises the valour of these Gloucestershire "rifles" of the olden time. (History, pp. 112—116.)

1370. Thomas, Lord Berkeley described as having "a large vineyard, which he tended with great care."



1441. By an Act passed in this year the "lay people" of the "towne" of Cheltenham were released from the local taxes on account of the poverty of the place.

1466. Sir Maurice Berkeley purchased the lease of Cheltenham Manor.

1468. Up to this time Cheltenham returned two members to Parliament. The practice was discontinued in consequence of a petition to Queen Elizabeth from the inhabitants complaining of the expense.

1471, May 3. Edward IV. passed through Cheltenham with an army "consisting of 3000 infantry and a large body of cavalry" on the eve of the Battle of Tewkesbury. The army marched that day 36 miles from Sodbury (Cheltenham then being on the high road from Bath), and taking slight refreshment here passed by way of Elmstone Hardwicke and Tredington to within three miles of the hostile encampment, where they passed the night. Sir Maurice Berkeley fought valiantly on the king's side next day; and the result of the battle is thus described:—"The royal monarch on the following day was declared the victor on the battle field. The undaunted Margaret and her unfortunate husband, Henry VI., were soon inmates of the Tower. The heir apparent to the crown, her youthful son the Prince of Wales, was murdered—the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III., openly assisting in the act. But such are the revolutions which Providence brings about. Henry, Earl of Richmond, who was on the Queen's side, fled to the continent, and in fourteen years afterwards slew this same Richard III. at Bosworth Field, in the identical 'suit of polished steel armour,' in which he was victorious at Tewkesbury—ascended the throne by the title of Henry VII., married a Yorkist, thus uniting the 'white and the red roses,' and for ever put an end to the strife of the rival families." (History, p. 76.)

1486. The Trye family became possessors of the Manor of Leckhampton. John Trye was nominated by Richard III. Mayor of Gloucester in 1483. [In reference to this entry, the Rev. S. Lysons, of Hemstead Court, has kindly furnished us with the following correction:—"I have seen an abstract of it—the 'History of Gloucestershire'—in the 'Examiner,' and would wish to point out one error which strikes me. The family of Trye did not become possessed of Leckhampton in 1486, but in 1797, when my uncle, Mr. Trye, succeeded to the estate by the will of his cousin, Henry Norwood, Esq. Hardwicke Court, near Gloucester, was the ancient family seat of the Tryes, who were of French extraction, and connected with the highest French nobility, as well as the royal family of France. The first de Trye who settled in this country is supposed to have been taken prisoner by one of the Barons of Berkeley, in the French wars, and brought to England, where he subsequently married into the family of his noble captor, and ended in founding the English branch of the 'Trye family, temp. Edward III. The Tryes are descended from Dreux de Chaumont, temp. William the Conqueror. Several of the family have been Grand Constables and Grand Admirals of France—one of them Archbishop and Duke of Rheims."]

1507. Date on key stone of the arch of an old "church-house," or poor-house, which existed at the entrance to the churchyard from Chester Walk. It was demolished in 1813.

1509. Richard de Cheltenham, the first recorded "Abbot of Cheltenham," died. He was elected Abbot of Tewkesbury Abbey in 1481, and assisted at the funeral of the renowned Prince Arthur, at Worcester, in 1502.

1540. Date of Judge Greville's tomb in Parish Church.

1555. First entry in present Court Roll of the Manor.

1565. In a work published in 1781 is a statement that the tobacco plant brought to England in 1565 was first planted on English ground in this parish (Cheltenham), and "yielded considerable produce and profit to the inhabitants."

1574, August 31st. From an entry in the vestry book of this date, it appears

that clergymen were designated "Sir"—thus: "Sir John Evans, Curate of Cheltenham."

1578. Cheltenham Grammar School and Alms' Houses founded by Richard Pates. (The subjoined likenase of Richard Pates is handed down to us in a rare and curious engraving of the period.)

1597, Feb. 27th. Curacy of Cheltenham leased to Francis Bacon, Esq., afterwards Lord Chancellor, the renowned statesman and philosopher.

1603. "Lodowick Packer, Esq., gave the third bell to Parish Church."

1607—1614. Dates on two head stones in Parish Church.

1612. Died, Sir Michael Hicks, who purchased and settled at Witcomb Manor, where his descendant, Lady Cromie, still resides.

1620. Baptist Hicks was knighted in this year by James I. Created Viscount Campden by Charles I., he became the purchaser of Cheltenham Rectory. He settled at Campden, where he built a mansion covering eight acres, and costing £30,000. During the Civil Wars he destroyed this princely building rather than it should be garrisoned by Cromwell's troops—an act to be regretted, as the house was never approached by the Parliamentary forces.

1622. Date, carved on stone of south front of Parish Church tower, supposed to refer to the time of some extensive alterations.

1624, Feb. 21st. Customs of the Manor settled by agreement between the copyholders and Prince Charles; the former paying the Prince £1,200 for his consent to the act.

1625, Aug. 1st. Manor Act received the Royal assent. The costs of obtaining the Act were—in the Lords, £51 16s. 8d.; in the Commons, £19 5s.; total, £74 1s. (For copy of Act, Jurors' Report on the boundaries given at same time, and numerous other documents. see History, pp. 43-73.)

1628. The Manor of Cheltenham purchased of the Prince of Wales by Mr. Dutton for £1,200. It remained in the Dutton family 215 years, and when sold by Lord Sherborne, in 1843, it realised £39,000. Odart, the founder of the Sherborne family, was a warrior of great strength and courage, and had given to him as a reward of his bravery "all the bulls out of the spoils taken in Wales."

1628. A gallery at west end of Parish Church erected by Mrs. Norwood. Removed in 1813.

1629. Thomas George, who died in this year, left three shillings and four pence per annum for the preaching of a sermon on "Ye parable of ye sower" some time during seed time in each year.

1629. Jun. 8. First Manorial Court under the new Act held in Cheltenham.

1630. By a publication of this date it appears that no widow or daughter of a copyholder of the manor was allowed to marry without the "Lord's" licence.

1633. Date of interesting correspondence respecting Lord Bacon and the Rectory (pp. 190—194). In this year the stipend was £10 yearly, which Earl Salisbury described as "a scandal to the church of God." After this the Curate's stipend was fixed at "forty pounds a-year."

1634. In January of this year the town was visited by a snow storm which





lasted for three weeks. It was accompanied by violent storms of wind, which caused considerable damage to the houses. Many persons perished on the highways in the environs. The summer which followed was noted for its extreme heat, yet, notwithstanding so thick was the snow and ice of the preceding winter, that large quantities of it remained unthawed at the adjacent quarries of Brockhampton.

1638. List of church property handed over to new churchwardens, amongst which are "one groate Bible," "Booke of Soules, worked in a duet," "one hour glass" and "one paire of fyne green carpets wrought we niddle work." In the same document it is also stated that the amount of church money then in hand was one shilling and ninepence.

1643. September 5th. Battle of Cheltenham between the Royalists and Parliamentary forces. (History, pp. 218—235).

1643. November 6th; and July 12th, 1644. Charles I. visited Sir Charles Pope, Earl of Downe, at his seat at Cubberley, the Royal forces being at that time stationed in the neighbourhood of Cheltenham.

1643. Death of wife of Dr. English, incumbent, who died of a broken heart through her husband's persecution and imprisonment by the Puritans.

1651. Captain Conway Whithorne, of the Whithorne Lovesey family, present under Charles II. at the Battle of Worcester.

1652. Proceedings in Parliament against the tobacco plantations in Cheltenham 1658. Troops sent from Gloucester to destroy the plantations; driven back by the inhabitants. 1675. Cheltenham described as populated by a people "much given to plant tobacco, though they are suppressed by authority." Sir Francis Drake is supposed to have first introduced the plant in this neighbourhood.

1660. Friends' Meeting-house built. The old building is now transformed into two cottages, next to the new Meeting house in Manchester-walk.

1655. After a very abundant harvest the price of wheat at Cheltenham was seventeen pence per bushel, and barley one shilling and two-pence.

1675. December 21st. First record of appointment of highway surveyors by the vestry.

1675. In a "geography" of this date is a reference to Cheltenham as "in extent six furlongs: it numbers near 200 houses."

1678. At this date a cow sold for £4 7s. 6d.; carpenters were paid about 1s. 2d. a day; butter sold for 5d., and bread at a ld. per pound.

1680. November 19th. Died, William Prynne, Esq. His tomb exists in the Parish Church. The founder of the Priou family was the celebrated William Prinn. He published in 1633 his *Histriomastix*, for which he was tried before the Star Chamber and condemned to the following sentence: "That his book be burnt by the common hangman; to be put from the bar, and to be for ever incapable of his profession; to be turned out of the society of Lincoln's Inn; to be degraded at Oxford; to stand in the pillory at Westminster and Cheapside; to lose both his ears, one in each place; to pay a fine of £5,000 and to suffer perpetual imprisonment." These cruelties were carried into effect, and he was confined in the tower, but, nothing daunted, he still plied his pen, and was again tried in 1637. and sentenced to be branded, to be put in the pillory, to pay a further fine of £5,000, to have the remaining portion of his ears sawn off, and to be imprisoned in a dungeon in Carnarvon Castle. He remained in prison almost forgotten, until the restoration, when, in 1640, he was released and made a triumphant entrance into London, and was again advanced to great wealth and dignity. With his accumulated wealth he purchased the beautiful estate of Charlton Park, and his family have ever since been intimately connected with the history of Cheltenham: The ancient family crest surmounting the pillars at the

entrance of the family mansion—a spread eagle issuing from a coronet—is truly characteristic of the military courage of the present owner, Sir William Russell.

1683. G. Townsend, Esq., endowed a scholarship at Pembroke College open to the pupils of Cheltenham Grammar School—present value £50 per annum.

1690. The celebrated John Prinn was steward of the Manor. From records of this date the "Lord" was allowed to erect "gallows, pillories, and tumbril, for the punishment and judgment of malefactors," the latter article being a "ducking stool" for the cure of scolding women.

1697. Bells of Parish Church re-cast by Rudhalls of Gloucester.

1697. Entry in vestry books of issue of new coinage and calling in the old.

1699. Chimes erected in Parish Church and set to the tune of the 113th Psalm. The chimes played every three hours. The machinery still lies in the Belfry, but the chimes have been long discontinued.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ERECTED A.D. 1011.

1703. West window of Parish Church erected. The west view of this fine old structure is given in the annexed engraving.

1703. November 27, a great storm which injured the Parish Church and most of the houses in the town.

1712. Cheltenham described as "a town considerably engaged in the malt trade."

1713. Cheltenham Old Charity School established.

1713. "Several well disposed persons" subscribed £14 to purchase a silver flagon for the use of the Communion.

1715-16. Accidental discovery of mineral waters at Old Wells.

1716. Mary Careless committed to Quarter Sessions "for saying, twice, King George was a Papist Dog"; Mary Hill likewise committed for answering "No, he was a Presbyterian."

1721. Sir John Dutton, Bart., gave a fire-engine for the use of the town.

1721. First analysis of mineral waters by Doctors Greville and Baird.

1722. A house rented at £8 a year as a poor-house; when a house so rented should happen to be full, another house was to be added. The poor rates about this time were about £12 annually.

1727. The entire poor-rate was £12 14s. 1½d., the Plough being rated at £6 per annum. Subjoined is a view of this celebrated hostelry as it appeared in the olden time.



PLOUGH HOTEL IN THE OLDEN TIME.

1727. There were in this year only 158 heads of families rated to the relief of the poor; in 1861 the heads of families numbered 9320.

1731. June 5, a terrific hailstorm which did damage to the town to the extent of £2000.

1736. Sir Edward Seward arriving in Cheltenham could not obtain a lodging, and was obliged to proceed onward to Gloucester for the night, the post chaise being fetched from thence to take him.

1738. The first coach or "flying machine" from Cheltenham to London, advertised to accomplish the journey "if God permitted, in the short space of three days."

1739. In a butchers bill of this year a quarter of lamb was charged 2s. 3½d., "loyn" of mutton 1½d., and leg of lamb 1s.

1741. August 11, advertisement of "a cudgel match" at the Plough, "he that breaks most heads in three bouts, and comes off clear, to receive a good hat, and a guinea in money."

1743. The Pretender Burnt in Effigy. The sensation which the fate of the Pretender and his adherents caused throughout Europe is a notable fact in modern

history. At this period the population of the town and hundred of Cheltenham was but small, and yet the then inhabitants gave expression to their feelings on the subject, as witness the following from the *Cirencester Flying Post*, in the possession of W. Hollis, Esq., of "The Reddings":—"Extract of a letter from Cheltenham, dated April 16, 1743. Yesterday being the anniversary of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland's birth-day, the morning was ushered in with ringing of bells and other demonstrations of joy; at noon a considerable number of our young men, armed, assembled at the Town Hall with the Pretender in effigy, who was dressed in a coat of paper, a Scotch bonnet, a hay wig, a cross on his breast, and a halter about his neck, and fixed on a wooden horse; with whom they proceeded, and after a march round the town a bonfire was provided and the Pretender committed to the flames, and the following speech was made: 'May the Pretender and his adherents know, that we are sensible of the many advantages and invaluable blessings we enjoy under the present just and mild government—that we abhor Popery and Slavery, under any disguise whatever; and we are ready to hazard our lives and fortunes in defence of our happy constitution, and to support the present Royal Family in their just pretension to the Crown of Great Britain.' After which was a general discharge of small arms, with loud huzzas from the populace. The evening concluded with drinking of loyal healths.

1743. A letter in the *Morning Post* states that the visitors at Cheltenham "number about 600 persons, of great fortunes and gentility."

1744. In May, this year, wheat at Cheltenham market was quoted "from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. per bushel."

1744. Aug. 4, John Westley visited Cheltenham and "addressed one of the largest audiences ever assembled there."

1744. Mrs. Siddons, then an unknown actress, performed in Cheltenham. The Earl of Aylesbury, who happened to be present, was so struck with her acting that he invited her to London, and thus opened the way to fame and fortune. (Extracts from her letters from Cheltenham. History, pp. 134—137.)

1745. In an advertisement of this year, "The Crown Inn" is described as having stabling for "an hundred horses;" a few years previous "the Swan" was described in a similar advertisement as having "stables for upwards of sixty horses, stalled and bailed; and coach-houses answerable."

1749. Dr. Johnson was a visitor, and in subsequent numbers of "The Rambler," makes frequent mention of the scenery round Cheltenham.

1749 May 17, Dr. Jenner born. He practised as a physician many years in Cheltenham, residing first in the High-street, and afterwards at No. 8, St. George's-place. He practised gratuitous vaccination in the house now known as "Alpha House," Bays Hill, and so great was the prejudice then against the innovation that the house was known among the common people as "the pest house." Wilderspin, the originator of Infant Schools, resided in the same house for many years.

1754. The right of the Incumbent to nominate his Parish Clerk and Sexton admitted in vestry.

1762. The Poet Shenstone describes being present at the annual presentation of a new hat to the "poor incumbent."

1776, Sept. 23. Mrs. A. Court murdered by a dishonest footman while on a visit to Cheltenham. The murderer was executed in 1777, and gibbeted at "The Marsh," near Clarence Square.

1778. Remarkable snow storm. So deep was the earth covered that the snow imbedded and hid for three days three waggons going from Tewkesbury to Cheltenham.

1779. John de la Bere purchased of the Earl of Essex all the tythes which supported the Perpetual Curacy of Cheltenham.

1779, April 14. Mrs. Elizabeth Skillicorne, a Quakeress, buried in the Quaker's grave-yard.

1780. S. Moreau, Esq., elected first Master of the Ceremonies. The fame of the Mineral Waters having attracted a number of visitors, it was found necessary to elect an M.C. The choice was a judicious one, as Mr. Moreau, both by his obliging manners and by his pen, did much to advance the interests of the town. He received King George III. and other distinguished visitors, and edited a Cheltenham Guide. Mr. Moreau lies buried in the middle aisle of the Parish Church.

1781. Bays Hill House, built by William Skillicorne, Esq., the residence of King George III. during his stay in Cheltenham.

1781. First Cheltenham Guide published in London.

1783. The only public conveyances in the town were two sedan chairs. The "first fly" was not introduced until 1810; but the luxury was a failure, and brought its owner into the Bankruptcy Court.

1786. Birth of the late Earl Fitzhardinge. He was created Baron Segrave Sept 10th, 1831, and shortly afterwards advanced to an Earldom. He was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county December 8th, 1835, and died at Berkeley October 10th, 1857.

1786. Commissioners empowered to erect "120 oil lamps" for lighting the town. In 1818 gas was introduced in the High Street; but up to 1825 it was a common practice to carry lanterns home from church by parties who lived "outside the High Street."

1786. It is stated under this date that the "stipend" of the minister of Cheltenham was but £40; the value of the alienated rectory lands was £600 per annum. Upwards of 800 acres of commonable land have from time to time passed into private hands.

1787. Sunday school first held at the Parish Church, only six years after the first in the kingdom had been instituted by Raikes, at Gloucester.

1788. Present Lord Fitzhardinge born.

1788. July 12th. George III., Queen Charlotte, and the Royal Princesses visited Cheltenham. They stayed till the 16th of August, occupying Bayshill House, to which his Majesty added seventeen rooms at his own expense.

1788. The *Morning Post* relates that "in consequence of the overflow of Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Presbury are crowded." The same authority adds that "Cheltenham will be the summer village of all that is fashionable—the Cheltenham bonnets, Cheltenham buttons, and Cheltenham buckles being quite the go—the fashions being completely Cheltenhamized throughout the kingdom." Yet in 1780 the number of visitors only amounted to 360.

1790. July 8th. Entry in the vestry book of the birth of a twentieth child to William Fowler and Hannah his wife.

1795. November 11th. Between 11 and 12 at night a severe shock of an earthquake felt in the town and neighbourhood.

1798. Sir William Hicks who resided on the present site of the Belle Vue Hotel, formed and commanded for several years the Cheltenham Volunteer Infantry. According to a Parliamentary return, the number of effective Volunteers in the town in 1803 was 240, a large number for the then population, and a convincing proof of the local patriotic spirit then prevalent. Sir Ellis Hicks, an ancestor of Sir William, was a great favourite of Edward III., and being appointed to accompany the Black Prince in his campaign in France, was present at the Battle of Cressy, where he captured a French standard, and was created by the King a Knight Banneret for his bravery with three *fleur de lis* for his armorial bearings.

1800. A post-office opened at 127, High-street. At this time the letters were

delivered by an old woman who sometimes kept them until five or six days after they arrived, saying "she had something else to do than to take a single letter to the bottom of the High street." Many persons now living recollect Sally Saunders, or "Old Sally," as she was generally called, and can recollect her quaint form as she went about with her lanthorn and basket of letters on her postal errands.

1801. Mr. Henry Thompson purchased for a nominal sum 400 acres of land on which now stand the districts of Montpellier, Lansdown, &c.

1801 In the same year John De la Bere purchased a farm of thirty acres of Lord Suffolk for £2,800. The land was afterwards re-sold for £14,000, and this property was the original site of Suffolk-lawn, Suffolk square, St. James's Church, St. Philip's Church, &c., &c.



ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH.

1801. A woman, living in 1860, leased in the year 1801 five bushels of wheat in fields within a mile of the Parish Church. Her husband was paid £5 for these five bushels of wheat.

1803 A chalybeate spring discovered near Barret's mill.

1805. First Government Post-office established, with one postman. In 1863 there are six clerks, sixteen letter carriers, and upwards of two million letters are delivered annually over a circumference of sixty miles.

1806. Female Orphan Asylum founded by Queen Charlotte. [Over-leaf is a view of the Building.]

1808. March 30. Foundation stone laid of the first modern market house, in the presence of the county cavalry and thousands of spectators. The site was that now known as the Public Offices, the large room above being still occupied as a Board room by the Town Commissioners.

1809 Four and a half acres of land in Cheltenham sold for £4,208. It had been bought a few years previous for £400.

1809. "We were much gratified by the serious and respectable behaviour of our Volunteers, both Cavalry and Infantry, at Church on Sunday. Those best acquainted with human nature will not feel less confidence in their defenders from their attention to these duties."—*Cheltenham Chronicle*, June 1st. We thus see that the town has always set an example in the formation of Volunteer Companies, and after the lapse of half a century Cheltenham again shows its

loyalty by the creation of a Battalion numbering upwards of 400 members. In order to still further illustrate the spirit which animated the Volunteers of 1809, we annex further extracts from the *Chronicle* of that year. "On Thursday last the Royal Cheltenham Volunteer Cavalry and Infantry were inspected by Colonel Probyn, and, after going through the exercise, the Colonel addressed them in words of warm approbation. On Monday they were drawn out in celebration of the King's birthday and fired several volleys on the occasion. The troop of cavalry afterwards dined at the Cross Hands, where, amongst other songs, an admirable one, written by a member of the corps, was sung with great animation



FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

and effect by Mr. Newman. The officers of the Infantry sat down to an elegant dinner at the Plough Hotel."—June 8th. "On Tuesday morning, the First or Cheltenham Troop of Royal Gloucestershire Gentlemen and Yeomen Cavalry assembled to celebrate their fourteenth anniversary, and at four o'clock sat down to an excellent dinner at the Plough Hotel. After dinner a very handsome silver gilt cup, of the value of 150 guineas was presented to Captain Gray by the non-commissioned officers and privates of the troop. It was presented by Mr. Edward Hall, on behalf of himself and the corps, with an address wherein he observed that 'Fourteen years have elapsed since this corps was raised for the defence of our King and country. As we were the first corps in the county, and among the first in the kingdom, I am proud to see that we are first in honour and respect. In fine, we flatter ourselves that by your aid we have arrived at that perfection in discipline which will enable us, whenever called upon to meet the foe, to do you honour, our King and country good service, and each individual credit. You will find, Sir, whenever that muster day shall arrive, that every member of this troop will come forward with the greatest pleasure to stake his life and to sacrifice everything that is most dear to man in defence of our King and country.'"—August 17. From this extract it would appear that the first local Volunteers were formed in the year 1795, and the spirit which they manifested appears to have been imbibed by the inhabitants in 1861, as is evident by the time which the numerous Cheltenham Volunteers now devote to their duties. The first modern Volunteer Corps was formed in the town in September, 1859, under the Captaincy of Robert D'warris Gibney.

1809. May 21st. Parish boundaries perambulated.
1810. July 2. Cheltenham and Leckhampton Tramway opened.
1809. October 10. Alstone Mineral Spring first discovered, and a Pump Room erected over it. This Spa continued open until 1838 on premises at the rear of what is now known as Alstone Villa, and Jung and Schneider's Alstone Spa Nursery Gardens. The last lessee was Mr. Chambers, of the Royal Old Wells.
1809. May 4. *Cheltenham Chronicle* established, the first local newspaper.
1809. October 25. Grand Jubilee in honour of George III. attaining the fiftieth year of his reign. Public dinner at the Town Hall.
1809. November 21. Earl Fitzhardinge first hunted the Cheltenham country.
1809. November. First stone of Tram-road to Gloucester laid by the Earl of Suffolk. On the 4th June following the line was publicly opened. The event was celebrated by a public dinner at the Assembly Rooms, at which all the leading gentry of the county were present. It was regarded as a most important undertaking, for prior to that time there was no means of supplying an increasing population with heavy commodities. The Act was an expensive one, and the investment became worthless on the establishment of Steam Railway communication with Gloucester. The old Tram-road, after having been used for fifty years, was abolished in 1861, and the materials composing it sold by auction. "The tram-plates, &c., belonging to the old Tram-road between Cheltenham and Gloucester, were sold by auction by Mr. Knowles, on Friday last. The iron fetched a high price, the cast plates realising as much as 58s. per ton, and the wrought over four guineas. Some gentlemen from the Forest made large purchases, one buying over 600 tons. The total sum realised by the sale was £2,703." (*Cheltenham Examiner*, April 24th, 1861.)
1810. Organ in Parish Church erected by subscription.
1811. Enclosure Act passed, by which 505 houses in the parish, erected on common lands, and assessed at £20,042, are exempted from payment of Church or Burial Ground Rates.
1811. Site of Old Alms' Houses sold for £250, and afterwards re-sold by the purchaser for £2000.
1811. May 25. Arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Angauleme, daughter and son-in-law of the unfortunate Louis XVI. of France.
1811. "A strawberry was plucked this week in the garden of Lady Lindsey, in Cambray, in this town, which measured four inches and five-eighths. (*Cheltenham Chronicle*, July 18)
1811. June 4. Tram-road to Gloucester publicly opened. Dinner at the George Hotel, Lord Sherborne in the chair.
1811. May 8. Ruff's Regent Gardens opened. Public dinner in honour of the event, Capt. Gray in the chair. The Regent Gardens occupied the site of the present Regent Street. These Gardens enjoyed a great amount of patronage for many years. The amusements were similar in character to those practised at Vauxhall Gardens, London, during the same period.
1811. General Lefevre and other French officers "prisoners of war" in Cheltenham. The General broke his parole, and escaped to France, his wife accompanying him dressed as a page. (*History*, p. 329.)
1812. Pate's Alms House, adjoining the Royal Hotel, taken down, and the present building in Albion-street erected in its stead. June 4. The birth-day of King George III. celebrated. A public breakfast was given in the Regent Gardens, Regent-street, and a ball at the Assembly Rooms, at which 600 persons were present. In the afternoon there was a grand review of the Royal Cheltenham Volunteers and the Cheltenham Yeomanry.
1812. At the time of the murder of her husband, the Right Hon Spencer



Percival, Mrs. Percival and her orphan family occupied a cottage in Constitution-place, the site of the present Promenade-terrace.

1812. Oliver Watts, minister of the first Wesleyan congregation here, used to announce after the benediction, that a supply of provisions had been received, "which the Brethren might obtain on coming to 128, High-street."

1812. Sept. Lord Byron spent some time on a visit to Col. Berkeley, and was present at the theatricals, in which the Colonel, Mrs. Siddons, Charles Kemble, Mr. and Mrs. Liston, and Joe Grimaldi took part.

1813. April 8. First visit of Webb, the philanthropist. This extraordinary man had an income of £75,000 per annum, and spent his time in travelling from place to place and distributing large sums among the poor. In his tour he visited Cheltenham on three occasions during the above and following year, which are all recorded in the *Cheltenham Chronicle*. At his last visit he became acquainted with Miles Watkins, a local eccentric, and adopted him as his Secretary. On the first visit he gave £400 in one day, and £200 on the following day, and left behind him £60 for distribution. He gave one thousand guineas for apprenticing boys at Gloucester, and spent for the same object nearly as much in this town. For thirteen of the boys, who were apprenticed to some higher branches of trade, he paid £440. His second visit was made in December following, when he promiscuously distributed £1,400. His last visit was in April, 1814, when his object was to prevail upon the poor to marry, giving himself a dowry by way of inducement. He publicly stood "Father in Church" to an indigent bride, named Ann Clarkson, when, upon her union with George Witts, he presented them with £200. His Secretary paid £300 in one day for refreshments to the crowd that assembled! He invited 600 of his fellow-townsmen to the White Hart, and besides the regalement which cost the sum above-mentioned, he gave away money. Miles Watkins, while travelling with Mr. Webb, assisted in the distribution of over £100,000.

1813. September 7. Balloon ascent, remarkable from the fact that no gas-works then existed, nor until five years afterwards. Mr. Sadler, the aeronaut, employed artificial means for inflating his balloon. He formed his gas of ten cwt. and a half of iron filings and 35 cwt. of sulphuric acid. Notwithstanding the quantity used, the gas formed was insufficient to raise Mr. Sadler and his balloon. His son, although only 16 years old, supplied the father's place in the car, ascended from the Tramway Wharf, and safely descended the same night at Chipping Norton. The ascent was to have taken place on the 6th, but it was found impossible to inflate the balloon on that day. Thousands had come in from the country to see the sight; and the town was so full that numbers were unable to obtain lodgings, and compelled to remain out in the streets all night.

1813. August 13. Bath Road through Cambray opened.

1814. January 17. The mail arrived from London, "the first time for the last seven days."

1814. August 9. Sarah Humphris, a *felo-de-se*, buried in the cross-road leading to Swindon, the last instance of a cross-road burial in the parish. "The deceased destroyed herself by drinking vitriol. The place of interment is just beyond the residence of the late Mr. Maule, road-surveyor, at a cross-road leading to commonable land called "The Marshes,"

1814. Sept. 13. Meeting at Town Hall to form the first Auxiliary Bible Society. Thomas Bagshot de la Bere, Esq., presided. The meeting was addressed by eleven resident clergymen of the Established Church, seven Dissenting ministers, and by two members of the Society of Friends, one of whom was the celebrated Dr. Pope, Physician to George the Third. Upwards of one hundred guineas were collected.

1814. "A parump, measuring upwards of five feet, was this week dug from the

garden of Mr. Bachelor, of the Greyhound Inn, North Street." (*Cheltenham Chronicle* Dec. 8.)

1814. "A few days since was plucked from a tree in the garden of Mr. Denney, nurseryman, of this town, a gooseberry, called the 'Great Britain,' of the astonishing size of five and a half inches in circumference." (*Cheltenham Chronicle*.)

1816. Visit to Cheltenham of the Duke of Wellington. Colonel Berkeley was deputed by a public meeting to deliver an address of congratulation to the gallant visitor.

1816. Rev. J. Simeon and five others purchased the right of electing the minister for the sum of £3,000.

1816. A small house in High-street, which was let 20 years back for £12 now returns the annual rental of one hundred guineas.

1816. July 7. The Duke of Wellington arrived with his Duchess. Presided at the formal opening of the Assembly Rooms and remained until the 31st, when his Grace and family left for Earl Bathurst's seat, near Cirencester. The Duke again visited the town August 15, 1828, and remained for a fortnight.

1816 July 12th. Arrival of Louis Philip, Duke of Orleans, afterwards King of the French. He remained in Cheltenham three months for the benefit of the waters.

1816. First provident society founded. It was in the winter of this year, that a society was formed for the relief of the indigent poor; and it was commenced under favourable auspices, a collection having been made in the Parish Church, amounting to the large sum of £400, after a sermon by the Rev. Charles Jervis. This munificent contribution to the cause of charity has never been surpassed, we believe, on any occasion in Cheltenham. It is curious that the collection was made by a number of ladies, and perhaps this may account for its unexampled success. The collectors were the Ladies Castle-tewart, Charlotte Stewart, Faulkener, Hudson, Otway, and Grant; the Hon. Mrs. Deane, the Hon. Mrs. Moore; Mesdames Newell, Thompson, and Matthews. Subsequently large contributions were handed in from other sources; and the society flourished and did a great amount of good for a number of years, until it was merged in the operations of a number of district relief societies, such as we have them at present.

1817. January 6th. First National School, on Dr. Bell's plan, opened in the Bath-road. It was commenced in the Old Town Hall, June 5, 1816, which soon proved too small for the object; this led to the erection of the new building, the foundation stone of which was laid by W. Prinn, Esq., of Charlton Park, August 23, 1816. The first annual report, published in August, 1817, gives the number of boys then in attendance at 194, and the girls 178. The annual subscriptions in aid of the school were £151., donations for the year £130; after sermon by the Bishop of the Diocese £105; after sermon by the Rev. C. Jervis £86. The committee of management were enabled to pay that year £835 on account of land and the school buildings, leaving a balance of £548 for future reduction. The gross payments made during the year were £1,092. It was further reported that Dr. Bell had visited the school, and had expressed himself satisfied with the progress which had been made. That gentleman subsequently took up his residence in this town, and died here in 1832, aged 79. At the time we allude to there was no other National school in the town for the children of the poor, and no charge whatever was made for their instruction; now we have day schools connected with each of our churches, besides two flourishing British Schools, Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Schools, &c. Dr. Bell resided at Lindsey Cottage, afterwards the residence of Sir Richard Wolseley, Bart., and since occupied by Dr. Comyn. He was deemed so great a benefactor that he was honoured with at

public funeral, and interred in Westminster Abbey with all the ceremonies due to his worth on February 10th, 1832.



WATERLOO SCHOOL.

1817. Freemasons' Hall, in Portland Street, erected at a cost of £4000. It is remarkable for its architectural features, being designed to represent an ancient mausoleum, as illustrated by our sketch. It is fitted up internally with great



MASONIC HALL, PORTLAND STREET.

taste, and contains a fine organ. The Hon. J. Dutton, the eldest son of Lord Sherborne, Col. F. Berkeley, M.P., and many of the resident gentry, belong to the ancient craft. Early in 1817, a Freemasons' Lodge was opened in Cheltenham, Dr. Boisragon, Master; R. W. Coley, Esq., Senior Warden; W. H. Harris, Esq., Secretary; and R. Pruett, Esq., Treasurer. Since that time the order has prospered in this locality, and in the following year, the Masonic Hall, Portland.

Street, was built, in a very substantial manner, for the ordinary meetings of the craft. The Duke of Beaufort was then the Provincial Grand Master, and his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex was Grand Master of England. In the *Freemasons' Magazine* for 1857 it is said that, "During a brief sojourn at the 'Queen of Watering Places,' an opportunity offered at which we gladly availed ourselves for a renewal of a visit to this excellent Lodge. In a former notice we have mentioned in terms of strong approbation the style and character of the buildings, fittings, and furniture, which render the Masonic Temple in this place so admirably adapted for giving full effect to our beautiful ceremonies."

1818. August 12. Sherborne Spa opened. The building, which was afterwards called the Imperial Spa, occupied the site of the Queen's Hotel. It was removed from its original to its present position, at the Bays Hill entrance to the Promenade, where it is now used for commercial purposes.

1818. September 28. Gas-lights first used in the streets.

1818. The Promenade commenced. Its site now lined with handsome buildings and ornamented with its beautiful avenues of trees, was at that time occupied as a brick-field, a rude plank being over the Chelt for the convenience of foot passengers.



THE "PROMENADE" FROM IMPERIAL CIRCUS.

1818. November. Savings Bank established. From the first report we find that the inhabitants largely availed themselves of it as a depository for small savings. During the year ending 30th September, 1819, the total deposits were £26,953, and the depositors were 315 in number, consisting chiefly of servants, artificers, small tradesmen, Benefit Societies, and Charitable Institutions. The Bank has gone on ever since, and has proved here, as elsewhere, a source of much security for small savings. "The Annual General Meeting of the Trustees and Managers of this institution was held at the Bank Buildings on Friday last. It appears that the institution is now in the 44th year of its existence, and that at the close of its present financial year there were the names of 5,833 depositors with open accounts standing on the books, being an increase of 148 accounts during the year. The nett balance which, in 1860, was £143,708 Os. 8d., in

1861, amounted to £150,830 ls. 1d., shewing an increase in capital £2,122 Os. 5d. The amount due to depositors at the end of 1861, was £150,478 ls. 2d.; which, being deducted from the balance of £150,830 ls. 1d., as above stated, leaves a clear cash surplus above the liabilities, of £351 10s. 11d., in addition to the value of the Bank Premises. Of the above balance, £953 18s. 2d. was in the hands of the Treasurers—the Managers of the County of Gloucester Bank—and the remaining sum of £149,876 2s. 11d. was invested with the Government; such investment being duly certified by a receipt under the hands of the National Debt Commissioners. The rate of interest given is 43 Os. 10d. per cent., being the maximum allowed by the Act of Parliament. The above facts are highly satisfactory, and we cannot help thinking much of the success obtained by, and the public confidence reposed in, the institution, is due to the indefatigable labours of Mr. Rees Phillips, who has for so many years filled the office of Secretary.”—*Cheltenham Examiner*, January 29th, 1862.

1819. Races established on Cleve Hill. In the previous year races were held on Nottingham Hill, which proving successful led to their establishment. In 1831, they were removed to Prestbury Park, where they continued until 1836, when they were again held on Cleve Hill until 1842, when they were discontinued. An Annual Steeple Chase was substituted at a public meeting held at the Plough Hotel, May 7th, 1844. In August, 1819, the Annual Races were commenced in Cheltenham, under the distinguished patronage of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and the resident and visiting nobility and gentry. His Royal Highness subscribed one hundred guineas to the fund, and several thousand pounds were collected for stakes. Three days' racing was determined upon, and several races each day. A vast number of the nobility and gentry attended; and during the race week the town was like a Continental carnival, owing to the crowds and gaiety which prevailed. A ball given in the Assembly Rooms realised a profit of £120 to the Race Fund. The Cheltenham Races have now attained a high degree of celebrity, and attract a large number of visitors annually, as may be seen from this statement of the principal stakes won at the races held March 25th and 26th, 1853:—"Three of the best prizes were carried off by our own townsmen. The great stake was won by Captain Barnett, of Bayshill Lawn, whose horse, 'Sir Peter Laurie,' ridden by Holman, defeated, after a splendid race, the Irish crack 'La Gazza Ladra' and four others. The run home was one of the finest things of the kind ever witnessed. Sir Peter was very patiently and well ridden by his trainer, Mr. W. Holman, who, on returning to the betting ring, was greeted with vehement cheering by the assembled spectators. The value of the stake to the winner was £382 18s., besides which, we believe, his backers were large winners through their betting books. The effect of the Cheltenham Steeple Chases of 1852 as ensuring the stability of these annual gatherings, has been, we are informed, most encouraging. The sale of two of the winners realised between £100 and £200 over and above the entered price, thus forming a very fair nucleus for next year's fund; and if, as is confidently expected, these chases should become connected with the grand military events which annually take place at Warwick, they will in future rank second to none in the kingdom."—*Cheltenham Examiner*. At the Races held on April 5th and 6th, 1853, the value of the Grand Annual Stakes was announced at £500. Among the owners of horses entered was the Marquis of Waterford. In 1861, the Grand National Hunt and Military Races were held on property belonging to the Earl Ellenborough. The sport lasted three days, and attracted an immense assemblage of the most wealthy sportsmen of England.

1820. "Henry Thompson, Esq., to whom Cheltenham is obliged, in a great degree, for the celebrity of its springs, and the most admired improvements at

that fashionable place of resort, died there last week, at his residence, Hygeia House, in th 72nd year of his age."—*Morning Post*. November 9th, 1820.

1821. June 23. First spring van started from Cheltenham to London. Prior to this date there was no other conveyance of heavy goods except the four wheel waggon, which usually occupied eight days in going and returning.

1822. Trinity Church (to accommodate 900 persons) and the present Market House and Arcade built in this year under the auspices of Lord Sherborne, the then Lord of the Manor.

1822. The Bath Road opened through Shurdington and Painswick.

1823. It is stated that in this year, so great was the prosperity of the town that there were from 400 to 500 men employed in the building trades, the contracts under hand for new houses amounting to £450,000. From the arrival lists of that year, we find that the visitors included 4 Dukes, 3 Duchesses, 3 Marquises, 5 Marchionesses, 4 Bishops, 10 Earls, 8 Countesses, 53 Lords, 70 Ladies, besides a host of Honourables, Baronets, foreigners of title, and other persons of distinction.

1823. May 20. Parish boundaries perambulated. Prior to this official act no survey of the parochial boundary had been taken for a quarter of a century. It occupied two days, and the ground walked over exceeded 28 miles.

1823. November 8. "Cheltenham Journal" established.

1824. Rev. F. Close became Assistant Curate at Trinity Church. In 1826, he was appointed Perpetual Curate of Cheltenham, an office which he filled until appointed Dean of Carlisle, in 1856.

1824. April 26. New peal of bells erected in Parish Church.

1825. Horticultural Society first formed. The exhibition of Floral and Horticultural specimens, which were on a small scale for several years after the formation of the society, took place at the Imperial Spa. The society has now become so extensive that it is enabled to offer a large amount for prizes. The exhibitions are conducted on an extensive scale, and are attended by many thousands of the leading nobility of the town and county. The prizes are open to all competitors, and the exhibitions, which take place at the different Spas alternately, are rendered the more attractive by the attendance of a military band belonging to one of her Majesty's regiments.

1825. May 4. Foundation stone of Pittville Pump Room laid with Masonic honours.

1826. First Infant School in the town established by Mr. Wilderpin. It is an



INFANT SCHOOL, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE.

interesting fact connected with the educational history of the locality, that Cheltenham was the first place where the renowned founder of the Infant School system carried his views into practice. Here it was that Mr. Wilderspin for many years, both by teaching, lecturing, and by his published works, laboured most indefatigably to awaken all classes to the importance of educating the infant mind. The first Infant School for gratuitous instruction was erected in St James's Square, and opened July 26th, 1830. This school was founded through the instrumentality of the Rev. F. Close. Mr. Wilderspin resided for many years at Alpha House, Bays Hill, where Dr. Jenner first carried out his plan of gratuitous vaccination.

1826. Present Montpellier Pump Room erected. The Montpellier Gardens were opened July 28th, 1830.

1826. Nov. 22. Sir Walter Scott arrived to take a course of mineral waters, from which he derived much benefit.

1827. July 31. Queen Adelaide staid at the Clarence Hotel. On her departure she drove through the unfinished street, since known as Clarence-street.

1827. Nov. 15. Ecclesiastical fees of the parish settled by the Bishop, and advertised as follows :—

Publication of banns of marriage—minister, 3s. ; clerk, 1s. 6d.

Marriage by banns—minister, 6s. ; clerk, 3s.

Marriage by license—minister, 10s. 6d. ; clerk, 5s.

Churching of women—minister, 1s. ; clerk, 6d.

Certificates from registers—minister, 2s. 6d. ; clerk, 1s.

Extracts from ditto—minister, 1s. ; clerk, 6d.

Funerals (except at three o'clock in winter and four in summer) single grave—sexton, 7s. 6d.

Inhabitant householder—minister, £1 1s. ; clerk, 5s. ; sexton, 10s. 6d.

Non-inhabitant householder—minister, £3 3s. ; clerk, £1 1s. ; sexton, 10s. 6d.

Funerals inside the church—minister, £10 10s. ; clerk, £2 2s. ; sexton, £1 1s.

Inhabitant householder—minister, £10 10s. ; clerk, £2 2s. ; sexton, £1 1s.

Vaults, ditto—minister, £52 10s.

Monuments, five superficial feet or under—minister, £5 5s.

For every additional superficial foot—minister, £1 1s.

Head and foot stones in the churchyard—minister, £1 1s.

Flat stones over graves or vaults—minister, £2 2s.

Tombs ditto—minister, £3 3s.

Rails round ditto—minister, £3 3s.

The Church of the Holy Trinity, in the aforesaid parish; county and diocese.

Funeral fees—minister, £2 2s. ; clerk, 10s. 6d. ; sexton, 10s. 6d.

Double brick vault in the yard—minister, £10 10s.

Single ditto ditto—minister, £6 6s.

Monuments, five superficial feet or under—minister, £5 5s.

For every additional superficial foot—minister, £1 1s.

Monuments against the walls outside—minister, £1 1s.

Head and foot stones in the churchyard—minister, £1 1s.

Flat stones over graves or vaults—minister, £2 2s.

Tombs, ditto—minister, £3 3s.

Rails round ditto—minister, £3 3s.

For single catacomb in the church—minister, £10 10s.

The above is a true copy of the table of fees deposited in the Ecclesiastical Court.

F. CLOSE, Incumbent of Cheltenham.

1828. February 21. The public clock at the late Magistrates office erected.

1830. Pittville Pump-room erected at a cost of £80,000. Previous to its erection visitors used to take the waters at "The Little Spa," a building in the East walk, on the South side of the lake.



THE LITTLE SPA.

1830. June 26. George IV. died. **GREAT FLOOD IN CHELTENHAM.** A great storm and flood occurred this day, and extended nearly all over the country. The Cheltenham *Examiner* of August 1, 1855, says—"Its effects were very similar to those of the storm of Thursday last, except that the waters then swept through *fields* instead of through *streets*. Where the Promenade now stands was then a piece of waste land or meadow; and Mr. John Russell informs us, he remembers that year Mr. Henney giving him the use of a slip of the land where the Literary Institution now stands, and which he planted with potatoes. These potatoes were just getting fit for digging, when alas! the storm of June 26th swept over the land, and the waters of the Chelt swept over Mr. Henney's meadows and carried the whole of Mr. Russell's potatoe crop, mould and everything, along with it! The waters on that occasion also burst into what is now Jeasop's Gardens, making a breach through the very spot in the embankment where they broke through on Thursday last with such damaging effect. At a former flood, about fifty years ago, the water rose as high as the pales of the churchyard; but that was before the houses in the Old Crescent were built, and when, of course, no part of the river was arched over, the whole being an open stream from mill to mill."

1830. Consecration St. James's Church, Suffolk-square. [View of building, see next page.]

1830. October 6. St James's Church consecrated.

1830. August 14. Queen Victoria, with her mother, the Duchess of Kent, drove through Cheltenham.

1831. Gurney's Steam Carriage ran between Cheltenham and Gloucester on the turnpike road for several weeks, after which it was discontinued in consequence of a portion of the line of road having been re-stoned. To Sir Charles Dance we are indebted for this first attempt at introducing locomotives on the common highway.





ST. JAMES'S CHURCH.

1831. May 9. Parish boundaries perambulated.  
 1831. June 20. Paganini's first performance at the Assembly Rooms.  
 1831. September 19. The New Burial Ground and Chapel thereon consecrated. The Chapel, which is in the classic style, was built from designs by Messrs. Paul, resident architects.  
 1831. September 28. Great Reform Dinner at the Assembly Rooms.  
 1831. November 4. New Police established.  
 1833. May 4. Cheltenham *Looker-On* established.  
 1833. Literary Institution formed.  
 1833. Statue of William IV. erected in Imperial Gardens, to commemorate the passing of the Reform Bill.  
 1834. This year, in making the sewer, the ancient "stepping-stones" were discovered which stood in the High-street; also the massive oak steps opposite the Plough and Crown Hotels.  
 1834. Mechanic's Institution formed  
 1834. Oct. 17. Earl Ellenborough's Yete at Nudeley Castle.  
 1834. Cambray Spa erected by the late Eavnum Jones, Esq., at the junction of Rodney Terrace and Imperial Square. The Chalybeate spring was discovered at this spot in the year 1804. In 1806, Sir Francis Burdett, then seriously ill and deprived of the use of his limbs, was restored to convalescence in the course of a few years, by drinking the waters of this Spa. [For view of building, see next page.]  
 1834. November 4. *Free Press* established by the late Samuel Charles Harper.



1835. Visit of H.R.H. Duke of Cambridge. During his stay he called upon J. Fallon, Esq., the then occupier, to inspect the residence of George III. when in Cheltenham—Bayshill House.



THE CAMBRAY SPA.

1835. June 8. Election of a Master of the Ceremonies. There were two candidates—Captain Kirwan and Mr. Sissons. Captain Kirwan was elected by a majority of 235 votes.

1835. November 10. The first election for a Board of Guardians in Cheltenham, under the New Poor Law Act.

1836. Literary Institution erected. The building was designed from the well



LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION.

known and admired Temple of Theseus, at Athens. It contained a lecture room and museum, but the finances of the Association were always in a deranged state and in 1861 the concern was wound up, and the building offered for sale. Attempts were made towards its purchase by the Improvement Commissioners, as a Board-room and Public-offices, but the proposition met with so much opposition that the idea was abandoned. In 1860 the building was sold by public auction, by Messrs Engall and Sanders, and shortly afterwards it was pulled down and two handsome shops, now known as New Buildings, erected in its place.

1836. March 25. Board of Highways first constituted. This Board was composed of twenty ratepayers, annually elected at a Vestry Meeting, and was continued until 1846, when its illegality having been discovered, Mr. C. Hale was appointed Town Surveyor in its stead. Prior to the establishment of the Board, the roads from time immemorial were repaired by a Town Surveyor; and after its abolition the ancient custom was again resorted to, which continued until the passing of the New Improvement Act in 1852. Owing to an omission in this Act, the Town Commissioners had no power to alter or stop up a highway; but the omission was rectified in the general Highway Act of 1862.

1837. January 11. The Cheltenham Stag Hunt established at a public meeting, and the Hon. C. F. Berkeley, M.P., elected the first Master of the Hounds.

1837. February 28. The Girls' Union School, St. George's-street, opened by public meeting.

1837. A cormorant, or, as it is called by naturalists *Pelicanus Carbo*, was shot in Pittville-street.

1837. Clocks erected at the churches. "This derideratum is, about to be supplied by the liberality of Mrs. H. Thompson, the amiable and much respected relict of Henry Thompson, Esq., a gentleman to whose enterprising spirit the aggrandizement and prosperity of Cheltenham may chiefly be ascribed. Mrs. Thompson has determined on presenting a public Clock for each edifice, to St. John's Church, St. James's Church, and St. Paul's Church, and has given orders to Mr. Denne for their construction and erection, on a similar scale to the Parish Church."—*Journal*.

1837. June 24th. Thursday being the day fixed for proclaiming our Most Gracious Queen Victoria in Cheltenham, a numerous party of the Magistrates, Gentlemen, and Tradesmen of the town, met at the Assembly Rooms, to make the preliminary arrangements, which having been completed at 3 o'clock, the procession left the Assembly Rooms, accompanied by a band of music with flags and banners, the whole of the police force, and parish constables, in the following order:—Mr. George Russell, High Constable, with his silver baton of office, H. N. Trye, Esq., the High Sheriff of the county, attended by J. C. Straford, Esq., the Deputy Sheriff, who was supported on the right by A. H. Kirwan, Esq., M.C., and on the left by Jas. Fisher, Esq., High Bailiff, the County Magistrates acting for the division of the county; the Rev. John Brown, of Trinity Church; the Churchwardens; the Registrar, and a large body of gentlemen and tradesmen; the procession halted at the Public Office, the Fleece, the White Hart, and the Old Swan, and returned to the Assembly Rooms, at each of which places Mr. G. Russell having enjoined silence, the proclamation was read by J. C. Straford, Esq., in a firm and audible voice, amid the enthusiastic cheerings of the populace. Persons of every shade of political opinion appeared to vie with each other in demonstrations of loyalty to the throne, and affection for the person of their "Virgin Queen."

1837. October 10. First stone of Christ Church, laid by Rev. F. Close

1837. April 24. The great Nassau balloon ascended from the Montpelier Gardens under the guidance of Mr. Green, who was accompanied by Mr. Raah

the American Minister. After a voyage of three hours during which they travelled 90 miles, and passed over Strathfieldsaye, the seat of the Duke of Wellington, a safe descent was effected 40 miles from London.

1838. July 21. Queens Hotel opened for visitors.

1838. August 8. Centenary Fete at Old Wells.

1838. October 3. Hampton, the aeronaut, ascended in a balloon from the Montpellier Gardens, and safely descended in a parachute on Hicks's farm at Hatherley. The event produced a great sensation at the time, in consequence of the recent death of Cocking, while attempting the same task, and the feat was deemed so dangerous as to be forbidden by the local Magistracy. Mr. Hampton, however, attempted the task, and made with safety one of the most successful parachute descents in England.

1839. April 22. Died at Cheltenham, Nathaniel Thomas Haynes Bayly. A tablet to his memory stands in St. James's Church, with an inscription from the pen of Theodore Hook.

1839. May 3. Destruction of Cheltenham Theatre by fire.

1839. July 4. Sir Francis H. Drake, Bart., died at Cheltenham, where he had been many years a resident. He was the last male descendant of the great circumnavigator Sir Francis Drake.

1839. July 17. First number of the Cheltenham *Examiner* published. The paper was started under the auspices of Earl Fitzhardinge, Hon. Craven Berkeley,



CHELTENHAM "EXAMINER" OFFICE.

the Magistrates of the Cheltenham Bench, and a large number of gentlemen and tradesmen, active members of the Liberal party. Mr. Fonblanque then editor of the London *Examiner* and since made Commissioner in Bankruptcy, came specially to Cheltenham, on the invitation of Earl Fitzhardinge, to advise as to the details of the new publication. Mr J. C. Symons, afterwards appointed one of H. M. Inspectors of Schools, was for some years its editor.

1839. July 15. News arrived of dreadful riots in Birmingham. The gas was put out, and several shops, in the principal thoroughfares fired by the populace.

1839. July 30. Great centenary meeting in commemoration of Whitfield held on Stinchcomb hill.

1839. August 2. Henry Vincent and other Chartists tried at Monmouth and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.

1839. August 5. General Sir James Stewart, Bart., G.C.H., the "father of the army," died at his residence in Cheltenham. He entered the service March 17, 1761, and became Colonel of the 2nd Dragoon Guards January 12, 1815. Sir James Stewart was alive in 1745 when his father was dispatched from Scotland by Prince Charles Stuart to arrange with Louis XV. of France, for a French invasion to overthrow the Hanoverian dynasty.

1839. August 6. John Chadburn, Esq., of Gloucester, mixed up in the matter of "Jemmy Wood's" will, committed suicide by hanging himself in his coach-house.

1839. August 18. A number of Chartists proceeded in a body to the Parish Church during morning service with a view to intimidate the preacher. There was no serious disturbance, but the party left as soon as the organ struck up the National Anthem.

1839. August. Public meetings on railway matters. The line from Cheltenham to Swindon was opposed by Mr. Henney and others, but it was carried by the influence of the then proprietors of the Lansdown property, and called after them "the Roy-Thompson" line.

1839. August. First day mail from London.

1839. August. County police force introduced at Cheltenham. The expense of the Commissioners police was said to be "25 men, £1470 14s. 6d."; of the new police "50 men, £2859 13s. 1d."; giving double the force and effecting a saving to the town of £781 1s. 5d.

1839. August. A "Cheltenham Improvement Bill" caused great agitation in the town; it was lost on the second reading. The "Examiner" stated that though it passed only one reading, was only one day in committee, had only one witness examined in its favour, and only one solicitor, one agent, and one counsel employed, yet the promoters managed to put the town to an expense of three thousand pounds.

1839. September 9. Chartist meeting at Cheltenham, to hear John Frost and Feargus O'Connor. About 3,000 persons assembled; a large number of special constables sworn in.

1839. September 7. Hon. Craven Berkeley, M.P., youngest son of the late Earl Berkeley, married to the Hon. Mrs. Talbot, widow of the Hon. George Talbot, brother to the Earl of Shrewsbury.

1839. November. Rev. F. Close removed from Monson Villa to the Grange, the residence purchased and furnished for him by his admirers in Cheltenham.

1839. November. A curious announcement appears in a leading article. "The Queen, it seems, is determined to marry Prince Albert;" together with the following couplet written on the Prince of Wales's marriage 45 years previous:—

"The Royal House of Hanover, the darling of the nation,  
Is likely now to last, at least, another generation."

1840. January. Mr. John Cooke, auctioneer, appointed assistant overseer; as it was resolved the officer should follow no other calling, Mr. Cooke declined the appointment, and Mr. Thomas Boodle was elected in his stead.

1840. January 14th. Major-General Sir George Teasdale died at his residence, High-street, from injuries received from a fall from his horse. He served forty years in the King's Dragoon Guards.

1840. January 14th. The Incumbent of Cheltenham stated from the pulpit that "he wished the canon law allowed him to refuse the sacrament to all per-

sons married at the Registrar's office;" so great was the feeling of churchmen at the time against these irregular marriages, then just legalised.

1840. January 11th. Highway robbery and attempted murder at Piff's Elm, a man named Yarworth being shot by a footpad and left for dead.

1840. January 21st. Consecration of Christ Church, then known as "the new church at Alstone."



CHRIST CHURCH.

1840. February 10th. Illuminations in Cheltenham in honour of the Queen's marriage.

1840. February 26th. Landslip at Hewletts, which is thus recorded in the *Cheltenham Examiner*:—"On Tuesday afternoon, a considerable quantity of earth burst from its base, near Mr. Agg's house, Hewlett's Hill, in consequence it is presumed, of being so thoroughly saturated with water from the continued rain. The ground was observed to tremble and rise, and then rush like an avalanche down the descent for upwards of 200 yards, bearing with it several withy trees, edging the cavity by which the land emerged, which now maintain an upright position at a considerable distance from where they were originally situated, and destroying a hedge which formed the boundary of a field over which it passed. In its progress it left several apertures, many of which are of considerable width and depth. The course which it took in its descent appears perfectly level in the centre, at the edges an accumulation of stones and earth was left during its passage, whilst the broken roots from which the trees were torn give proof of the force of its outbreak. The side of the hill from whence it came shows plainly by its hollowness the quantity of earth which has been

separated from it. This occurrence attracted a considerable number of spectators; on Sunday, it is supposed upwards of 3,000 visited the scene."

1840. April 7th. Election of Clerk to the Magistrates in the room of J. C. Straford, resigned. The candidates were Mr. G. E. Williams and Mr. Hubert Gyde. The magistrates divided 14 to 14, when the chairman, Rev. W. Hicks, gave his casting vote for Mr. Williams, and thus secured that gentleman's election. The appointment was afterwards cancelled by the Home Secretary, Lord Normanby, on the ground that the Chairman of the Bench had no right to a double vote. A second election took place on the 11th of June, when, Mr. Gyde having retired from the contest, Mr. Williams was elected without opposition.

1840. April 19. Appeal against a rate made by the old Commissioners. The trial occupied three days at the Gloucester Sessions, and resulted in the quashing of the rate by the magistrates by 10 votes against 5. The decision of the Justices was afterwards set aside by the Court of Queen's Bench, and the rate confirmed.

1840. June 15th. Meeting to address her Majesty on her recent escape from assassination, by Edward Oxford. The meeting did not appoint the Rev. F. Close its chairman, as usual on such occasions, the rev. gentleman having, some time previously, in commenting on the Queen's conduct, in reference to the government scheme of education, said:—"Suffice it to say, the covenant is broken, the throne is forfeited— but he would not finish the sentence in these degenerate days." The rev. gentleman to-day made amends by indulging in fervid expressions of loyalty to the person of our beloved Sovereign.

1840. June 24th. Railway from Cheltenham to Birmingham opened *pro tem*.

1840. July 15th. The "Examiner" says:—"We are informed that the health of the celebrated novelist, Sir E. Lytton Bulwer, which has of late been in such a precarious state, is materially improved since his arrival at Cheltenham."

1840. July 16th. Accident to Sir William Russell, at Charlton Park. Sir



TREES IN CHARLTON PARK.

William, and Mr. Ibbertson, of East Court, had mounted one of the trees in the park for the purpose of shooting a deer, when Sir William, in attempting to descend, fell a distance of ten feet, and, falling on his head, sustained a severe concussion of the brain, and was for some time insensible. An express was immediately sent off to his mother, Lady Russell, and his sisters, who arrived at the Park, from Leamington, in the course of the evening.

1840. July 25th. First poll on the question of Church-rates, in accordance with a resolution passed at a vestry meeting. Annexed is a statement of the number of persons who polled on this, and also on subsequent occasions:—1840, persons against the rate, 469; ditto for the rate, 371.—1841, persons against the rate, 698; ditto for the rate, 541.—1842, persons against the rate, 415, ditto for the rate, 396.—1843, persons against the rate, 32; ditto for the rate, 146.—1844, persons against the rate, 207; ditto for the rate, 281.—1845, persons against the rate, 1050; ditto for the rate, 655.—1848, persons against the rate 712; ditto for the rate, 339.

1840. August. Premises of the County Bank, High-street, enlarged. 21st, The new Wesleyan Chapel in St. George's-street, opened for public worship.

1840. August. Mr. Downing, of High-street, cited to appear before the Ecclesiastical Court for refusing to pay a burial ground rate.

1840. November 4th. Opening of railway to Gloucester (Birmingham line), and on November 17th the entire line was publicly opened from Gloucester to Birmingham.

1841. Very severe frost, causing great distress and suffering among the poor. Upwards of £700 subscribed in Cheltenham for the unemployed poor.

1841. Mr. Close published a letter recommending the enlargement of the Parish Church, the west end to be thrown out fifty feet so as to accommodate an additional 900 or 1,000 persons; the chancel and transepts to be shut off by a screen across the arch beneath the tower, thus enabling all the congregation to see the minister. The expense, with certain exterior alterations, he estimated at £11,000.

1841. April 5. Nine Cheltenham tradesmen tried at Gloucester on a charge of alleged riot in some proceedings at the Commissioners' meeting. Two of them—Mr. Joseph Bidmead, plumber, and Mr. Spackman—were found guilty and sentenced to a month's imprisonment. The affair throughout created intense excitement. Mr. Sergeant Ludlow was counsel for the prosecution, and Mr. Sergeant Telford for the defendants. At the conclusion of their incarceration, the two prisoners were brought in triumph from Gloucester, in a carriage with four greys, and in the evening entertained at a public dinner at the Lamb Hotel.

1841. April 26th. The lady of the Hon. Craven Berkeley, M.P., died this day in childbed, at the residence of her husband, 9, Mansfield-street, London.

1841. October 30th. New Union Workhouse completed and occupied. According to the Poor-law Commissioners' Report the building affords accommodation for 581 inmates.

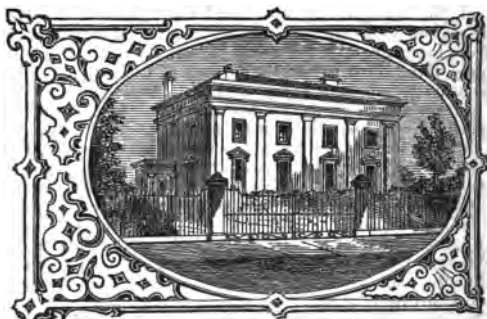
1841. October. Lord Ellenborough at Southam, previous to starting for India as Governor General.

1841. December. Mr. John Nicholson appointed Postmaster.

1842. January. "The Rev. J. Browne, incumbent of Trinity Church, whose pastoral duties have extended over a period of 14 years, has just had a most gratifying proof afforded him of the love and respect of his congregation. It seems that Mr. Browne has for many years defrayed the expenses of the choir (about £65 per annum), out of his own private purse; but the burden now proving too much for his resources, a few members of his church met to devise means of relieving him from an expense which ought properly to devolve on the congregation at large; at this meeting it was further suggested to present the



rev. gentleman with some token of the esteem of those attending his ministry, and so well was the hint followed up, that within a few days, and in the most



EAST HAYES, PITTVILLE.

secret manner, without any idea of what was in agitation being entertained by the rev. gentleman himself, a sum was raised amounting to 1000 guineas." The total amount subscribed—£1,500—was invested in a house known as "East Hayes," built for and presented to the Rev. J. Browne.—"*Examiner*."

1842. February. Charges against Mr. Thomas Boodle, the assistant overseer. The Poor-law Board, after a protracted enquiry, exonerated Mr. Boodle from all blame, except that he had made greater "concessions" to the parties concerned, than he was called to make in the strict discharge of his duty. (*Examiner*, Feb. 23.)

1842. April 22. The Post-office removed from the shop now occupied by Mr. Caudle, butcher, Clarence-street, to the new buildings near the Police Station.

1842. Fossil remains of an ichthyosaurus or fish lizard discovered by Professor Buckman, in the marl near the Defford Station. The head of this extinct monster measured 21 inches. Total length without the tail, 7 feet 2 inches; with the tail, 12 feet.

1842. May. Rev. A. Boyd, after preaching at Christ Church, some weeks *pro tempore*, signified his acceptance of the permanent pastoral charge of the congregation. Mr Boyd continued to occupy the pulpit of Christ Church until his appointment to the incumbency of St. Mary's, Paddington

1842. May 30. A man named Frances fired a pistol at the Queen while she was passing Constitution Hill. A public meeting was held at Cheltenham, June 6, to congratulate her Majesty on her providential escape.

1842. June 8. Permanent enlargement of the Cheltenham *Examiner*.

1842. Public Charities.—Mrs Sarah Bate, whose death we were shortly since called on to record, has left several valuable legacies to charitable institutions connected with this borough, among which are £500 to the General Hospital and Dispensary; £500 to the National Schools; £500 to the Female Orphan Asylum; and the like sum to the Dispensary for diseases of women and children; a society particularly directed to the relief of lying-in women. (*Examiner*, June 22.)

1842. Colonnade along the East side of Clarence-street pulled down.

1842. June 23. First annual distribution of prizes at Cheltenham College

The Rev. F. Close congratulated the meeting at its unexpected success, the number of scholars being 198. Twenty years later (in 1862) the number of scholars had increased to 615; and the prize list (which in 1842 occupied scarcely a quarter of a column in our paper) extended over three or four columns.

1842. July 13. The local shareholders in the Great Western were gladdened by the following announcement :—"It is rumoured that the Great Western intend to divide at the rate of 2 per cent. at the next meeting. We shall be very glad to hear that they are able to continue to pay 6."

1842. July 15. Duel at Osterley Park between the Hon. Craven Berkeley, M.P., and Capt. Boldero, M.P. The duel arose out of some disrespectful words spoken by Captain Boldero relative to the Queen, words which Mr. Berkeley called upon him to retract. The parties fired twice without effect and then left the ground.

1842. August 15. Opening of the great hotel at Swindon station.

1842. August 15. At the assizes at Gloucester, George Jacob Holyoake was found guilty of uttering blasphemy at Cheltenham, and George Adams of selling blasphemous publications. Chief Justice Tindal sentenced Holyoake to six months and Adams to one month's imprisonment without hard labour.

1842. November 1. Extraordinary proceedings at the magistrates office. Lady Ricketts, of The Elms, Mr. J. C. Straford, Esq., a highly respectable solicitor, Mr. Edward Cousens, his clerk, Thomas Wright, Esq., surgeon, and others apprehended on a charge of forging the will of the late Admiral Ricketts. The proceedings were instituted by Mr. Augustus Newton, a barrister, and son-in-law of Lady Ricketts, and created extraordinary excitement. After Mr. Newton had occupied several days in insinuations of forgery, fraud, cruelty, and murder, against the accused, the Magistrates unanimously dismissed the charge without calling upon the prisoners for their defence; there being, in fact, not a tittle of evidence in support of the accusation.

1842. November 11. Testimonial to J. C. Straford, solicitor, signed by nearly every professional man in the town, on the late unfounded charges brought against him by Mr. Augustus Newton.

1842. December 9. Mr. Newton applied to the Magistrates for the apprehension of Messrs. George Rowe and George Norman, proprietors of the "Examiner," on a charge of criminal libel in certain comments on the late charges of forgery and conspiracy. After a very lively "scene" between the parties, the application was refused. In consequence of Mr. Newton taking his seat on the bench and interfering with the Magistrates, the Bench next week passed a resolution to prevent his entering beyond the body of the Court.

1842. December. First through railway route from Cheltenham to London; the narrow-gauge lines booking passengers by way of Birmingham, to save the coach ride from Cheltenham to Cirencester, the Great Western being only as yet opened to the latter town.

1843. Improper Rectory, -comprising the chancel and seats therein, -purchased by Messrs. Newman and Gwinnett. Resold by them to the trustees of the living, in 1861.

1843. January. Plan for the employment of the distressed poor suggested in the "Examiner," namely, to set them at work to lay down the stone pathways, since known as "tariff work." The suggestion was adopted, public meetings held on the 17th and 25rd, an influential committee appointed, and subscriptions received in a few days of upwards of £700.

1843. January. "Cheltenham and Great Western Union Railway," from Cheltenham to Swindon, incorporated with the main line of the Great Western.

1843. February 14. First Grand Bachelor's Ball at the Assembly Rooms—500 present. Among these were the Hon. George Irby, Vice-Admiral Sir George.

Dashwood, Major-General Sir Archibald Maclaine, Sir George Pocock, and Sir Jacob Adolphus. Among the dresses and orders enumerated, were "General Maclaine—full dress Major-General's uniform. Orders—'The Bath,' 'Charles III,' and 'St. Ferdinand' of Spain. Col. St. Clair, C.B., K.H., K.C., St. B., and K.T.S., with medals for action, *A Portuguese General Officer, Portuguese*



THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

General's full uniform; very handsome. Orders—Star of St. Bento D. Iviz, Commander of the Bath, Hanover, Tower and Sword, Cross, Medals for the Action of Nive. Lady Maclaine, an original splendid Greek costume of crimson velvet, embroidered in gold and needle work; cap to correspond, tastefully ornamented with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. The dress was brought home by her ladyship in her travels through Greece and Constantinople, and excited universal admiration."

1843. February 8. Attempted assassination of the Rev. R. Rennett, of Evington Cottage, Coombe-hill, by his wife and step-son. Mr. Rennett was a clergyman of independent fortune—possessing, it is said, £1800 a-year—and in consequence of some domestic quarrel, his wife's son shot him with a pistol, his wife assisting. Mother and son were committed for trial. On the trial at the ensuing assizes, both prisoners were acquitted.

1843. Seizures for Church-rates made upon the property of C. L. Harford, Esq., Mrs. Waterfall, Mr. Willett, Mr. Carver, and other members of the Society of Friends.

1843. March 9. The tenor bell in the parish tower fell from the beam during the ringing of the Thursday evening peal. The ringers beneath fortunately escaped unhurt.

1843. March. Withdrawal of Mr. Close from the advocacy of the Gospel Propagation Society, on the ground of its supporting clergymen tainted with Tractarian heresies.

1843. March 24th. Mr. Bright and Colonel P. Thompson lectured in Cheltenham against the Corn Laws. The Assembly Rooms' Committee refused the

use of that building, so the lecture was delivered in the Union Schoolroom, St. George's-street.

1843. April 8th. Bill of indictment preferred at Gloucester, by Mr. A. Newton, against Lady Ricketts, Mr. Straford, Dr. Wright, Mr. G. Backman, and Mr. Cossens, for perjury and conspiracy. Twenty-six witnesses were examined, and the grand jury came to the unanimous decision that "there was not the shadow of a shade of evidence in support of the charge."

1843. April 14. Trial at Gloucester—"Newton and wife versus George Rowe and George Norman"—for libel, arising out of the great Ricketts' will case. Mr. Sergeant Talfourd was for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Alexander for the defendants. The jury (special) returned a verdict for the defendants.

1843. May. Appeal by Mr. Close against the Great Western Railway running Sunday trains into their proposed station at Jessop's Gardens.

1843. May 8. Remarkable *lusus nature* in the instance of a calf born at Mr. Hughes's, New-street, having eight legs, four ears, two tails, with only one head, all perfectly formed.

1843. June 9th. More charges of forgery against Lady Ricketts. Her ladyship being in London was arrested through the instrumentality of her son-in-law, Mr. Newton, and brought up in custody before Sir James Duke and Alderman Musgrave, at the Guildhall. The Bench unanimously dismissed the charge and expressed a feeling of "deep regret" that such a charge should have been made.

1843. June 16. Bill of indictment preferred by Mr. Newton against Sir Cornwallis Ricketts and Lady Ricketts for forgery. The grand jury at once ignored the bill.

1843. June 22. Second annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of Cheltenham College. The new building, Bath-road, was opened on the occasion, and it was mentioned as a subject of congratulation that there were 250 pupils under tuition.

1843. June 23. A whirlwind passed over the Bath-road at 2 p.m., and carried off about a ton of new mown hay, some of which fell on the summit of Leckhampton-hill, and some at Andoversford.

1843. August 4. Two Jewish converts admitted into communion with the Church of England at the Parish Church. The ceremony of admission was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Sandberg, himself a convert from Judaism and baptised at the same font a few weeks previously.

1843. August 16. Death of the Dowager Lady Ellenborough.

1843. Sale of the Lamb Hotel by Mr. John Cooke. The price was stated at £5,500.

1843. Mr. Augustus Newton a prisoner in Gloucester gaol under the insolvent act.

1843. August. New shops at the entrance of the Montpellier Walk opened for business. Previously this walk was shaded on both sides by trees, so as to ensure the utmost privacy to promenaders. The far-famed "musical promenades" were held there during the autumn months, and with the illuminations, the rows of gas lamps on each side, and the gay throng of promenaders, it presented a scene of attraction, such as has never since been witnessed in Cheltenham. [The view on next page is a sketch of the far-famed Montpellier Avenue at this period.]

1843. September. The Rev. Mr. Raymond, Vicar of Swindon, published a statement in the "Examiner" giving the number of miles walked by Mrs. Webb, a poor woman of Boddington, in search of a Union doctor to attend her sick husband:—To Tewkesbury and back, 12 miles; to Swindon and Cheltenham, 8 miles; ditto, ditto, 8 miles; to see Relieving Officer of Boddington, 2 miles; to Swindon and Cheltenham (twice more) 16 miles; total, 46 miles.

1843. September. Mountjoy, the pedestrian, performed the feat of walking 60 miles a day for six successive days. He started from the York Hotel, High Street, and walked to a mile past Northleach and back twice each day.

1843. September 19. The obelisk which was erected in the gardens of Wellington Mansion, to commemorate the visit of the Duke of Wellington to Cheltenham, was sold by public auction for sixteen guineas.

1843. October 4. Discovery of a chest in the Parish Church of the date of Elizabeth, and filled with ancient Parish documents.

1843. November. Various relics of the battles between the partizans of Oliver Cromwell and Charles 1st, found in Jessop's Gardens.

1843. November 1. Print of Gloucester Cathedral, being the first of a series of "Illustrations of Gloucestershire" presented to the subscribers of the "Examiner."

1843. November 8. Foundation stone of Salem Chapel laid by the Rev. W. G. Lewis.

1843. November 30. Fire at a farm house at Willesley, Broadway. Mrs. Rimel and six of her children perished in the flames. A public subscription was raised in Cheltenham for the survivors of the family.

1844. January 4. George Wilson, William Holtham, and others, bailiffs, were indicted at the Sessions for Assault and forcible entry in levying a distress warrant on the premises of Mr. Augustus Newton. The trial resulted in a verdict of acquittal.

1844. April 5. Opening of the new Unitarian Chapel, Bayshill, for public worship.

1844. April. Row of houses at the top of the Old Well Walk finished: Where the street now runs was formerly a narrow footpath leading to Grove Cottage, the residence for many years of Sir Charles Morgan, and the front of which looked down the Old Wells avenue.

1844. April 7. Being Easter Sunday, no less than 633 communicants partook of the sacrament at the Parish Church.

1844. April 4. A son of Lady Russell, of Montpellier House, shot by the accidental discharge of a fowling piece at Charlton Park. The bone of the leg was so much shattered as to render amputation of the limb absolutely necessary to save the patient's life.

1844. April 20. Mrs. Newton having been arrested by the defendants in the late action for libel for the costs, the Judges—Tindal, Coteman, Erskine, and Cresswell—held that the arrest was legal. Mrs. Newton was ultimately liberated on showing that her reversionary interest in certain property was not saleable. Her husband had previously got rid of his own liability for these costs by passing through the Insolvent Court.

1844. June 6. Salem Chapel opened with sermon by Rev. W. Jay, of Bath.



MONTPELLIER WALK IN 1843.

1844. June 15. Action by Mr. Augustus Newton against the Proprietors of the "Examiner" tried at Westminster Hall, June 15th, 17th, and 18th. The "Examiner" of the following Thursday gives the short-hand writer's notes of the trial, extending over 28 columns, and thus summarizes the result:—  
**"AUGUSTUS NEWTON *versus* ROWE AND NORMAN. ACTION FOR LIBEL. DAMAGES LAID AT £10,000. COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, WESTMINSTER BEFORE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE TINDAL.** Counsel for the Plaintiff, Mr. Cockburn, Q.C., and Mr. Petersdorf, assisted by Mr. Montague Chambers. Attorneys, Messrs. Badham and Houghton. Counsel for the defendants, Mr. Fitzroy Kelly, Q.C., Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Greaves. Defendants' Attorney, Mr. James Boodle, Cheltenham. This action, after several adjournments, was fixed to come off on Saturday. 15th; and from the number of witnesses expected to be examined, and the peculiar nature of the alleged libels, the defendants' pleas of justification, and the eminence of the counsel engaged in the case, much interest was felt in the result. The cause was expected to last two days, but it will be seen from our report of the proceedings that this calculation was much under the mark, nearly the whole of the Saturday being taken up by the speeches of counsel and the examination of the plaintiff's proof of publication of the libels. Monday was occupied by the witnesses for the defence, who comprised Mr. G. E. Williams, Mr. A. Harper, John Blagdon, Esq., J.P., Mr. Smallridge, solicitor of Gloucester, Mr. J. C. Straford, Dr. Wright, Lady Ricketts, Miss Lavinia Ricketts, and several others; their testimony was not concluded until ten o'clock on Tuesday morning. At that hour Mr. Cockburn addressed the Court in reply, his speech occupying two and a half hours in delivery. The learned Judge immediately summed up, occupying one hour. The jury were two hours and a half in deliberation, and at a quarter to 5 o'clock entered the Court with their verdict, which was as follows:—Upon the First Count, charging Mr. Newton with soliciting briefs, as stated in the letter signed 'Fair Play,' verdict for the Plaintiff—Damages, One Farthing. Upon the Second Count, charging the Plaintiff with rude behaviour at the Police Office; with having falsely and maliciously prosecuted Lady Ricketts, Mr. Straford, Dr. Wright, and others, without probable cause; and with having falsely sworn to an information against them; also with having imputed improper conduct to Lady Ricketts and her daughters—Verdict for the Defendants. Upon the Third Count, charging the Plaintiff with, amongst other things, having suborned witnesses in support of his accusation, verdict for the Plaintiff—Damages, One Farthing. Upon the Fourth Count, accusing the Plaintiff of unprofessional conduct, and of misbehaviour at the Police Office—Verdict for the Defendants. The result of this verdict is, that the whole costs of the defence, with the exception of a small portion of the pleadings, and of two or three witnesses, will fall upon Mr. Newton, besides his own Attorneys' costs." [It was afterwards stated that the defendants' costs in this extraordinary trial amounted to upwards of £1,100, not one farthing of which did they ever recover from the plaintiff. Mr.—now Sir—Fitzroy Kelly, the leading counsel for the defendants, received about 300 guineas as fees and retainers for his services.]

1844. July 8. Opening of Railway from Cheltenham to Bristol.

1844. Value of Property in Cheltenham. A remarkable instance of the progressive value of property in Cheltenham during the last 80 years has been brought under our notice by a correspondent. In 1766 a field of about three acres situate behind the Plough Hotel, was sold for £190; twenty-one years after, in 1787, the same field and the Plough Hotel sold for £1,825; eighteen years later, in 1805, the same property was sold for £6,300; eight-een years later again, in 1823, a portion of the field alone sold for £3,650; while about the same time the Plough and the remainder of the field sold for about £20,000; while

later still a small portion of the field, about 90 feet square, sufficient to build two second-rate houses on, has been sold for £450: thus we see a piece of land which 80 years ago sold for £20 an acre, fetching the enormous sum of £450 for a portion 90 feet square; and again property which in 1787 sold for £1,825 selling in 1823 for about £24,000, multiplying its value by thirteen times in the space of 36 years.—“Examiner,” July 10.

1844. July 23. Mr. Augustus Newton tried for perjury at the Worcester Assizes. The Judge directed a verdict of acquittal, remarking at the same time that it was a very proper case for enquiry.

1844. August 16. Action by Mr. Newton at Gloucester Assizes against Robert Staynor Holford, Esq. (High Sheriff), and his officers, for forcible entry in serving a writ. (This was the same charge as that tried on the criminal side last year.) The defendant paid 40s. into court, and the Jury considered that was “quite enough.” Verdict for defendants.

1844. October 14. Lord Ellenborough created an Earl on his return from India. The noble “Earl” arrived at his seat at Southam on the 5th of November.

1844. October 30. Miles Watkins died, a local eccentric, denominated “The King of the Cheltenham Royal Family.” He was by trade a shoemaker, and experienced the vicissitudes of fortune in a remarkable degree, dying at the age of 73, in poverty. At the age of 7 years, while watching corn-fields in Hale’s Road, he discovered a quantity of old guineas in a bank, which he exchanged for his first suit of clothes with his mother. His next employment was to lead a horse to grass baiting, to Maud’s Elm, in the Swindon Road. He was one day accosted by the Duchess of Devonshire, who was so pleased with the traditional tale which the boy told respecting the origin of the Elm, that she placed him to school for three years at her expense, and at the expiration of that time, he was invited to London, and spent a month at Devonshire House. He was apprenticed to the trade of a shoemaker, and under the patronage of the Duchess commenced business in Cheltenham, when he soon accumulated property. His vicissitudes now commenced. He was one year in possession of thousands, and the next in the most abject poverty, arising jointly from intemperate habits, and from free gifts. In 1814, he was in prison for debt, and released by Mr. James Webb, the philanthropist. With this gentleman, who had £75,000 per annum, Watkins travelled as secretary throughout England, and distributed to the poor upwards of £100,000. When on their tour, passing through Cheltenham, Miles Watkins invited 600 of his townsmen to the White Hart Inn, where he regaled them, and distributed sums of money; the day’s entertainment costing upwards of £300. He again became so poor as to subsist upon fruits picked up in orchards, and to sleep in the open air. He next started a business in London, became opulent, purchased houses in Cirencester, and once more opened a shop in his native town; again, he sold his property and spent the whole in drink, and again was reduced to want. In 1839, he became a pledged teetotaler. On May 20th, 1840, His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, who was staying at the Queen’s Hotel, Cheltenham, sent for Watkins, and finding his habits reformed, made him a handsome present.

1844. November 20. Marriage of W. S. Bond, Esq., to Miss O’Callaghan, by special license, at Christ Church, the first instance of a Church of England marriage in any other than the Parish Church. The ceremony was performed by the Right Hon. and Rev. Lord William Somerset, who afterwards entertained the wedding guests at his residence in Lansdown Crescent.

1844. December 20. Public meeting in Cheltenham in favour of the Gloucester and Dean Forest Railway. Mr. S. Baker (the chairman), Mr. Bowley, and Mr. Whitcombe, who attended on behalf of the company, pledged

themselves that if the town would support the line, best Forest coal could be delivered into the cellars of the Cheltenham consumers at from 10s. to 12s. per ton. On the faith of this pledge the meeting decided to support the line, a considerable number of shares were taken in the town, and Messrs. J. A. Gardner, Watson, Skillicorne, Henney, and Gyde appointed members of the Provisional Committee. The line was afterwards leased to the Great Western.—“*Examiner*,” Feb. 25th, 1856.

1844. December 25. Fire at Christ Church, caused by the igniting of some faggots placed near a stove. Fortunately it was discovered in time to avert serious damage. The Athanasian Creed having been omitted in the Christmas service at the church on the morning of the fire, a wag gave the following account of the cause of the conflagration :—

“Athanasius was angry at Christ Church they say,  
For rejecting *his creed* on the last Christmas day;  
And the worthy old saint to give vent to his ire,  
Determined on setting the vestry on fire!”

Cheltenham, January 1st, 1845.

1845. January 1st. Sir Jacob Adolphus, an old and much respected resident, expired at his residence, in Lansdown Crescent, this morning, after a long and trying illness. Deceased “entered the army as a medical officer in 1795, and was in active service for thirty-three years, twenty-eight of which were passed in the West Indies, being for ten years Chief of the Medical Department, in Jamaica. He served in Ireland throughout the rebellion of 1798; and accompanied the Walcheren expedition, where the service of the medical officers was most arduous; was appointed Inspector-General of Army Hospitals in 1827; was Physician-General to the militia forces in the island of Jamaica, and received the honour of Knighthood for his long professional services.”

1845. February. Union of the “Bristol and Gloucester” and “Birmingham and Gloucester” railways, under one company.

1845. February. First Prospectus issued of the “Cheltenham Oxford and London” Railway, through Northleach, Burford, and Witney, to Oxford and Tring. Local Solicitors—Bubb, Lingwood and Bubb, and Williams and Griffiths.

1845. February. The annual financial statement for 1844 issued by the old Commissioners.—Receipts, £6021 5s. 8d. Among the items of expenditure were—gas, £2021 14s. 0d.; scavengers, £883 6s. 8d.; clerk’s salary, £130; collectors’ salary, £131 7s. 10d.; surveyor’s salary, £100; and “balance in hand,” £811 2s. 3d. This, we believe, was the first financial statement *published* by the Board. The meetings of the Commissioners were held with closed doors, but application for admission having been made by Mr. Harper, of the “Free Press,” and Mr. Norman, of the “Examiner.” The Board as a sort of compromise, allowed the reporters to inspect and take copies of the minutes of proceedings. Among the Commissioners who took an active part in the business at this time were—Gen. Whish, Col. Watson, Major Douglas, Capt. Lloyd, Capt. Iredell, Dr. Irving, and Messrs. Bell, Barton, Bubb, Churchill, Fisher, Fox, Gyde, Merry, Peart, Ridler, Shedden, Straford, Webster, and G. A. Williams.

1845. February 20. Action in the Common Pleas by Mr. Newton against Mr. James Boodle and Messrs. Rowe and Norman for the “illegal arrest” and imprisonment of Mrs. Newton. The damages were laid at £5000. Chief Justice Tindal directed the Jury that the defendants were guilty of the arrest, but that they were quite justified in what they had done. Verdict accordingly.

1845. March 31. Great meeting of Churchmen and Dissenters at the Town Hall to petition against the Grant to Maynooth. The proceedings extended over four hours.

1845. April 22. Case decided in the Consistory Court, Gloucester, establish-



ing a claim to a pew in the Parish Church, under the faculty of 1794. The Court held that the faculty could not be impeached, and condemned the opposite party in the costs of the suit.

1845. May 2. Commissioners order the owners of houses in Clarence Street to pave the foot-path before their premises; and also ordered the owners of pieces of void ground in that street to erect fences in front of such ground.

1845. May. "Piff's Elm," a tree of majestic height in the Tewkesbury Road, and a striking object for many miles around the vicinity, cut down by order of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Its demolition occupied fourteen days, nine days in stocking it and erecting the scaffold around it, and the residue in lopping the limbs and felling the trunk, which was between eight and nine feet in diameter. Nine sawyers were occupied in cutting it up. Notwithstanding its great age, the timber was found quite perfect.

1845. May 13—14. Parish boundaries perambulated. The procession was headed by the Parochial authorities and a band of music. At one place a man had to go up a ladder through a window and out at another window in the back of the house, as the "boundary" was supposed to run through the premises. When the procession reached the Golden Valley the followers, 2000 in number, were treated with beer and cider *ad lib.* In the course of the proceedings, Mr. J. Douglas, a retired tradesman, who was just recovering from a severe fit of illness, was looking on at the procession when a fellow named Pulham came behind him and pushed him into the deepest part of the Chelt. Such "larking" was often practised on these occasions; indeed, it was considered allowable, as it caused the parties subject to these practical jokes to remember the "beating the boundaries," if the fact in after years was ever called in question. In the present instance Pulham's conduct led to fatal consequence, for the immersion caused such a shock to Mr. Douglas's system as to hasten his death. The Coroner's Jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Pulham; but on the trial at the Assizes in August following he was acquitted through the absence of a medical witness. This was the last occasion of beating the boundaries in Cheltenham, the practice being discontinued in consequence of no provision being made for payment of the expenses under the New Poor Law Act. The origin of the practice is lost in obscurity. One of the yokels following the procession on this occasion is stated to have given the following explanation to a select circle of his fellows:—"That ain't it mun! If they don't do it every fourteen years, Cheltenham would be claimed, mun, by the Catholics!" No doubt a very popular solution of the mystery, as the town was just then in the crisis of the Maynooth agitation.

1845. St. Peter's New Church. The subscriptions for the erection of this church now reach the handsome sum of £1564 17s. 6d.; but we are requested to inform the friends of church accommodation, that there yet needs £500 or £600 to make up the sum required, and those who are engaged in procuring subscriptions are anxious to close the list as early as possible.—"Examiner," May 14.

1845. June 19th. Fourth annual distribution of prizes at Cheltenham College. It was stated by the chairman that the average number of scholars was 274. The Rev. W. Dobson's name appears for the first time on this occasion.

1845. June 26th. At a vestry meeting this day Mr. William Ridler threw out the first hint for an elective body of Commissioners, to bring all the business of the town under one jurisdiction.

1845. June 29th. Divine service first performed in the schoolroom, Bath-road, which had been licensed for that purpose by the Bishop of the Diocese.

1845. July 3. Severe hail storm in Cheltenham and neighbourhood. The High-street was flooded, and several of the other thoroughfares rendered for a

time immemorial. In the conservatories of Lord Sudeley, at Toddington, eight thousand panes of glass were broken by the hail, and at Hewletts, Wormington Grange, and other exposed localities, the damage was very serious.

1845. August. A man named William Stanbury sentenced to ten years' transportation for robbing his employers, Messrs. Martin and Co., jewellers, of this town. The fellow was a leading "saint" among the Mormons, who were then creating a great stir in Cheltenham; and in his pocket, on being apprehended, was found a document of "leave and license" to live with another man's wife. This document, which was drawn up in due legal form, was as follows:— "This is to certify, that I, James Vaughan, and I, Amelia Vaughan, do mutually and peaceably propose, consent, and agree to separate, and live apart; and especially I, James Vaughan, hereby do agree that Amelia Vaughan, my wife *may live where she likes, and with whom she pleases*, so long as she does not contract any debt, or cause any debt to be contracted, or trouble James Vaughan, her husband, or refuse to give up her son George when required after two years of age and I, James Vaughan, do agree and consent that the said Amelia Vaughan shall be *as free as regards the disposal of her person and property* (should she hereafter, possess any) as though she had never been married; and, likewise, I, James Vaughan, will not in any way interfere with her, the said Amelia Vaughan, *or annoy her in any way whatever, nor enter any action or suit of law against any person with whom she may be residing, on account of her so residing or living with any such person*; and I, the said James Vaughan, further promise and agree not to claim any property she may hereinafter possess, either by gift or otherwise, so long as she does not contract any debt I may be liable for. I, William, Stanbury, do hereby promise and agree to become liable for all debts the said Amelia Vaughan may hereinafter contract, and pay the same, if any be so contracted, so long as this contract is abided by. James Vaughan and William Stanbury do hereby agree that in case either of them neglect or fail to fulfil the terms of this agreement, so as to cause any suit at law, so that this agreement must be taken into court to prove the same, the one that so refuses or fails to fulfil his part of the contract, shall forfeit and pay to the other the sum of Ten Pounds. And I, James Vaughan, do promise and agree, on condition of my having the charge and care of our son George, to allow his mother, Amelia Vaughan, free access to him at all reasonable and proper times, in case of illness or otherwise, nor shall he be taken anywhere in the country to reside without her knowledge. Witness our hands this 1st day of December, 1842,

"JAMES VAUGHAN,  
"AMELIA VAUGHAN,  
"WILLIAM STANBURY."

"Witnesses.

"Henry Fry,  
"The mark of + Caroline Brown."

1845. August 27th. Marriage of the Hon. C. F. Berkeley, M.P. We believe we may confidently announce that our worthy and much respected member, the Hon. Mr. Craven Berkeley, will be this day united to Charlotte, fourth daughter of the late General Onslow, of Stoughton House, Huntingdonshire, and widow of the late George Newton, Esq., of Croxton Park, Cambridgeshire. We understand that the ceremony will take place at Cranbury Park, near Winchester, the seat of Thomas Chamberlayne, Esq., and that Lord and Lady Palmerston, Earl Fitzhardinge, Lord Charles Fitzroy, Lady Mary Berkeley the Dean of Winchester and Mrs. Garnier, Sir Charles and Lady Burrard, Mr. Campbell, M.P. for Salisbury, the Misses Onslow, &c., &c., will be present on the interesting occasion.—"Examiner," Aug. 27.

1845. August 28th. Death of General Sir William Hutchinson; K.C.H., a resident in the town for many years.

1845. September 2nd. Died at his residence, Cambray, in his 84th year, Pryse Lockhart Gordon, Esq. He was the intimate associate of some of the most eminent literary characters of the day, amongst whom may be named Sheridan, Burdett, Horne Tooke, Dr. Parr, Dr. Burney, Campbell the poet, Prof. Porson, Sir J. Mackintosh, Monk Lewis, John and Charles Kemble, Peter Pindar (Walcott), Bannister, Sir M. A. Shee, George Colman, Sir T. Lawrence, Northcote, Opie, Godwin, Curran, Perry ("Morning Chronicle"), Lord Erskine, &c. He was at Brussels at the time of the Battle of Waterloo, and enjoyed the honour of acting as chaperon to Lord Byron and Sir Walter Scott, on their visit to the field of that battle. He shortly after returned to England, and passed the evening of his days in Cheltenham, enjoying the friendship of Lord Northwick Sir E. Lytton Bulwer, &c., to the last.



OLD HOUSE, OPPOSITE CAMBRAY.

1845. November 17th. Died at his residence, Cheltenham, aged 67, Admiral Sir Salusbury Davenport, K.C.B., K.C.H. The deceased officer, who took the name of Davenport on his marriage with a heiress of that name, was the Captain Humphreys who, on the 22nd June, 1807, when in command of the *Leopard* fifty gun frigate, captured the American frigate *Chesapeake* on the Halifax station. The action took place under written instructions from the late Admiral Sir George Berkeley, ordering the *Leopard* to search any American vessels he might fall in with, for deserters from the English navy. He demanded to search the *Chesapeake*, which her captain refused to permit; he thereupon engaged the American, killing six and wounding twenty-two of her crew. After the *Chesapeake* had struck her colours five British seamen were found aboard of her, and on their being brought to trial as deserters one was hung, and the others sentenced to five hundred lashes each.

1845. November. Great railway agitation in Cheltenham. The Great Western line to Oxford, by Shipton-under-Wychwood, making the distance to London 105 miles, was strongly opposed on account of its passing through the Pittville side of the town in a cutting. The "Cheltenham, Oxford and London line," going direct to Didcot, brought the distance to 97 miles. In the course of the controversy which ensued, an influential committee was appointed at a very large public meeting, the Rev. Francis Close being chairman, to watch over the interests of the town. According to a statement laid before the committee the line presented the following features in its passage through the town; it passed

within eighty yards of St. John's Church, thirty yards of Trinity Church, twenty yards of Lady Huntingdon's Chapel, fifty yards of Wesley Chapel, forty yards of the General Hospital (now the Female Training College), and ten yards of King-street Chapel. It raised the levels of the roadways. Cotham-lane (Hale's-road), twenty-two feet; Hewlett-street, three-and-a-half feet; Winchcomb-street, two feet; Henrietta street, eight feet; High-street, two feet; and New-street, eight feet. The town committee made its report to a large meeting held at the Town Hall, on the 29th December, when it was decided against this mode of approach, and it was further resolved that the mode of approach of the "Cheltenham Oxford and London" or Didcot line, which had its terminus in the High-street near the site of the old theatre, would not injure the town. The Pittville route, though opposed generally by the town, was supported by many names of local influence. The Hon. C. F. Berkeley was Chairman of the Board of Directors, and the solicitors were Messrs. Bubb, Lingwood and Bubb, and Messrs. Williams and Griffiths. On the line going before Parliament the town committee raised a fund of £1,000 to oppose it, and Mr. James Boodle was appointed to conduct the opposition. The question was, however, not tried out on its merits, as the bill was thrown out in Committee of the House of Commons on some question of the estimates. These facts are interesting at the present time, as bearing on the railway controversy of 1862, and which is—as far as the best mode of passing through the town is concerned—still undecided.

1846. February 5. Return made to a vestry meeting this day that the extent of the parish was 3,219 acres, 3 roads and 5 poles; the gross estimated rental, £211,134 5s. 1d.; rateable value for assessment to the county rate, £177 499, void and poor, 26,000. The vestry passed a resolution to the effect that the valuation was "considerably too high," and that house property was very considerably reduced in value.

1846. February 23. News arrived in Cheltenham of the battle of Moodkee, between 20,000 British and 60,000 Sikhs. The British, though victorious, lost 149 officers and 3,084 men in killed and wounded. Many of the officers being former residents in Cheltenham, the affair caused great consternation. General Sir Robert Sale, who was killed, resided here before going to India, and Lady Sale (since her captivity in Cabul) had been a resident in the town, and was here when the news arrived of her husband's death. Major F. Somerset, son of Lord and Lady Fitzroy Somerset, was also among the killed. Major Somerset had accompanied Lord Ellenborough to India, and behaved with great gallantry during the Sikh campaign.

1846. March 6. Died, in his 66th year, the Rev. J. Brown, for 33 years minister of Cheltenham Chapel.

1846. March 24. News arrived of the battle of Aliwal, when 12,000 British troops, under Sir Harry Smith, defeated the Sikhs, 24,000 strong, and captured 65 guns. Our loss was 600 in killed and wounded. Among the Cheltenham officers who fell in this engagement were Lieutenant Smallpage and Captain Knowles, nephew of Colonel Austin, of Lansdown-place. Adjutant Wade, severely wounded, was son of General Sir Charles Wade, K.C.B., for many years a resident here. At the annual meeting of the Naval and Military Bible Society, a few days after the news of these losses arrived, the Rev. F. Closs observed that, from personal knowledge he could say that there were more than twenty-six officers of the army and navy in the room, and that was a pretty good representation of the officers in Cheltenham. For his part he never wished to see artillery employed in any other way than in firing salutes, and he regretted exceedingly that his own children seemed to have caught some of the same fire as his friend on the left (the Rev. F. Robertson). He should have been much better pleased, had it been the will of God to direct them into his own profession;

but, (continued the reverend gentleman,) "I do say as a Christian minister, I do firmly believe in the lawfulness of war under the present circumstance of the world, and under the restrictions and influences of Christianity; and I do think that those who owe their independence, their property, their easy arm chair, and all the blessings of home to the gallantry—under God—to the gallantry and devotion of British seamen and soldiers, ought not to prattle so much about the unlawfulness of war, for had it not been for men of other determinations and dispositions, they would have been in a very different position themselves. It does appear to me to be an unanswerable argument on the subject, that you read, throughout the New Testament, of numerous conversions in the army both by the preaching of John the Baptist, our Lord himself, and His Apostles; and you cannot find a shred of evidence that any one of them ever said to the convert 'you must leave your warlike profession.' On the contrary, you find them as Christians all honouring God in that profession, and consequently the New Testament gives us no authority for saying that the profession of arms is unlawful. I believe, then, that it is lawful for a man to engage in warfare for the defence of his country, his religion, and his fireside, and that God will bless him in that profession as in any other. I know that it is the very genius of Christianity to destroy war, and if we could only infuse into nations, the same feelings as now exist in individuals, then there would be as few duels amongst nations as there are now between individuals. But you must agree that that period has not yet arrived, and in the meantime, it is your duty and mine to mitigate the horrors of war, to soften its sorrows, and to heal its wounds; and how can we do this more effectually than by pouring into it the balm and consolation of the gospel of Christ, and giving every soldier and seaman that word in his knapsack or hammock, which shall be his comfort in the desert, and the dark, and the dying hour."—"Examiner, April 1.

1846. June 5. Town Commissioners order a new rate of five pence in the pound.

1846. June 18. Fifth annual distribution of prizes at Cheltenham College. The number of pupils had now risen to 306.

1846. Mr. C. H. Hale appointed surveyor of highways by the magistrates. There had been a dispute, of some months duration, between the parish and the Commissioners as to whose duty it was to repair the roads. The parish found they could not legally appoint a surveyor. The magistrates were advised by their clerk, Mr. Williams, that they could not legally make the appointment, and the commissioners maintained it was not a matter within the jurisdiction of that board. The result was that the roads, including the High-street, threatened to become impassable, and in this crisis Mr. Williams advised the magistrates that, as a matter of discretion, they had better make the appointment. Mr. C. H. Hale was thereupon appointed, and it does not appear that the legality of the appointment was ever called in question.

1846. July. Much sympathy excited on behalf of a poor woman named Ship, 97 years of age, imprisoned for rent. Captain St. Clair, one of our local justices, set on foot a sovereign subscription among his brother magistrates; a sum of £40 was speedily collected, and the old woman liberated, a provision being at the same time made for her future maintenance.

1846. July. The Baron of Preston.—We have authority for stating that the old Scotch title of Viscount Preston, is about to be assumed by Sir Robert Graham, Bart., of Esk, in Cumberland, who is now residing in Cheltenham.

1846. July 25. Sir Justinian Vere Isham committed suicide by cutting his throat at his residence, 16, Pittville-villas.

1846. September. The Bristol and Birmingham Railway first ran their trains on Sundays in obedience to a late parliamentary enactment. In reference to this

event the Rev. F. Close published a letter in the "Examiner" stating his opinion that if it was "caused, as alleged, by the act of the legislature, another page of Godless legislation is recorded on the annals of our beloved country, and another national sin invokes the displeasure of the Almighty."

1846. Longevity.—There is at present residing in the pleasant village of Woodmancote the widow of a farmer and a servant who has been residing with her from her youthful days, whose united ages amount to 197 years; the mistress being 99 years of age, and the servant 98. The widow is deprived of sight, but otherwise in the enjoyment of good health; the servant is still active for her years, and devoted in her attendance on her mistress.—"Examiner," Sept. 9.

1846. October 8. It was decided at a vestry meeting to put in repair Coltham-lane, which forms one of the boundaries of the parish at the Charlton side. By the reparation of this road, which was for years impassable, a new and beautiful drive has been formed, and the suburbs of the town thereby improved and enlarged. It was publicly opened by procession on August 16, 1847, and named "Hale's-road," by the Master of the Ceremonies, as a compliment to Mr. C. Hale, the town surveyor, through whose perseverance the improvement was effected without the aid of the public rates. In the formation of the road, one of the workmen discovered a shilling of Queen Elizabeth's reign, date 1578, beside, a quantity of Roman coins. Mr. Hale was presented with a silver tankard by subscription, at the completion of the work.

1846. November 9. Arrival of Earl Fitzhardinge for the hunting season. The occasion was marked by a somewhat novel circumstance. A few months previous a criminal information had been laid against a clergyman of the town for writing certain anonymous letters, and a verdict of guilty returned at the trial at Gloucester. The noble lord's name having been mixed up with the affair, the minister's churchwarden refused to allow the bells to be rung as usual on his lordship's arrival. The parish churchwarden, Mr. G. Rowe, however, authorised the ringers to give the usual salute, and the Incumbent being appealed to at once sanctioned Mr. Rowe's decision. The bells were accordingly rung to welcome his lordship's arrival.

1846. December 7. Scheme proposed by the late Thomas Henney, Esq., for obtaining a supply of water for public Baths in the Bath-road. A plan and section published in the "Examiner" of the above date.

1846. January 14. INDIAN MEMORIAL. A column copied from an Hindoo design, has just been completed by Mr. Lewis, sculptor, of this town, intended for erection in the garden of the Earl of Ellenborough's residence at Southam. On it are inscribed the names of the heroes who commanded in the late Indian war, with the dates of the various actions in which they distinguished themselves during his government. It is profusely decorated with Mural crowns, shields, and other emblematical devices, richly sculptured; the whole is executed in Caen stone. A pagoda is erected to receive this interesting memorial.—"Examiner," Dec. 16.

1847. January. Two more actions by Mr. Newton against Messrs. Rowe and Norman. These make six actions of the same nature; in all of which, except one, verdicts were returned for the defendants.

1847. January 21. Large meeting in the Town Hall, for the relief of the distress in Ireland. The Revs. F. Close, A. Boyd, and J. Browne, took part, and the contributions within a few days amounted to £1,870. Large subscriptions were also raised for our own suffering poor, who were again set to "tariff work" at an expenditure during the severe weather of from £120 to £150 per week. It is recorded that on the 7th of February, an old man of 91 died in Cheltenham from the inclemency of the weather.

1847. January 25. Messrs. Herbert and Page (sent down by the Woods' and Forests' Commissioners) commenced an enquiry at the Fleece Hotel on the water

question,—the Water Company having a bill before Parliament for an increase of their powers.

1847. March. The Cheltenham contributions to the distress in Ireland and Scotland, stated to amount to nearly £8000. Of this upwards of £2000 was in answer to the appeal at a public meeting.

1847. March. Considerable agitation on the Church-rate question. The Incumbent held a meeting of his friends, who passed a resolution approving the principle of the rate, and a counter meeting, called by Rev. A. M. Brown and Rev. W. G. Lewis, was held at the vestry room of Salem Chapel.

1847. March 5. J. Peart, Esq., a gentleman well known, and a member of the board of Commissioners, died suddenly at a board meeting this day. Deceased was in the act of affixing his signature to some official document, when he suddenly laid down his pen, fell back in his chair, and instantly expired.

1847. March 5. Manchester and Southampton Railway Bill thrown out in committee on standing orders. So popular was this line that on the letters of allotment being issued last year, the shares stood at six pounds premium.

1847. March 13. A young lady, Miss Julia Quinlan, died suddenly while dancing a quadrille at a ball given by Lieut.-Col. Fitzmaurice, at his residence, Berkeley Place.

1847. April 14. Action in the Sheriff's Court, Gloucester, by Mr. Brickwell against the Great Western Railway, for the value of a piece of land taken by the Company, near Alstone Mill. The jury gave a verdict for £720 purchase money, £240 severance and compensation, and £20 for immediate possession. Total—£970.

1847. April 20. First sitting of the New County Court, before James Francillon, Esq., the resident Judge, at the office of the Magistrates, then held in a room belonging to Messrs. Griffiths, Solicitors. The trial by jury was practised, and the first case was successfully gained for the plaintiff, by C. J. Chesbire Esq., a local solicitor. Under the new act juries are summoned, and attorneys plead the same as barristers in Superior Courts. Anciently, all cases were tried, by the Steward of the Manor, and an application was made to Parliament for a renewal of the custom, but it was decided that the privilege was lost by disuse.

1847. May 24. Great fire at Alder's cabinet warerooms. Besides Mr. Alder's own loss, his workmen lost tools of the value of £150. A subscription on their behalf was set on foot, and realised nearly £250.

1847. May 26. The "Examiner" of this date says—"James Francillon, Esq., the judge of the new County Courts, has been appointed, by the Lord Chancellor, a magistrate for the counties of Gloucester and Wilts. Mr Francillon intends taking up his residence in Cheltenham, and those who have witnessed his painstaking and impartial conduct, while presiding over his own court, will rejoice at the addition of his name to our list of local magistrates. It is understood that his appointment was entirely the act of the Lord Chancellor without the interference of any subordinate authority."

1847. May 28. Commission of lunacy sat at the Belle Vue Hotel, to enquire into the state of mind of Commodore Beattie, of Keynsham place. The jury found that the unfortunate gentleman had been of unsound mind since May 28th, 1845.

1847. May 31st. Decision of the Commons Committee in favour of the Cheltenham and Oxford (Great Western) Railway. There were two schemes this year; one, a narrow gauge line to Oxford and Tring, with station in the High-street, and making the distance to London 10½ miles; the other, the broad gauge from Cheltenham through Burford and Witney to Oxford, distance to Paddington 102 miles. The latter line cut through Pittville, with a station at the Market-place. It was strongly opposed by the town committee, and a petition

against it obtained about 3,000 signatures, embracing, it was said, more than half the registered electors of the borough. After a month's inquiry in committee, the attendance of sixteen solicitors, and the examination of innumerable witnesses, this line was carried, and it afterwards received the royal assent. Ultimately, owing to a change in the money market, and other causes, the line was abandoned.

1847. June 7th. Arrival in Cheltenham of Sir Harry Smith, the hero of Aliwal. An address, with six hundred signatures, was presented to him by Capt. Kirwan, M.C., at the Belle Vue Hotel. Sir Harry (who was accompanied by his lady) made a stirring address to the crowd assembled in the gardens of the hotel. Sir Harry and his lady resided some time in Cheltenham, the latter taking a course of the mineral waters, under the advice of Dr. Cannon.

1847. June 7th. George Stokes, Esq., one of the founders of, and chief writers for, the Religious Tract Society, died suddenly at his residence in Cheltenham. The notice of his death states, "So calm was his end that not a ruffle of the bed-clothes gave evidence of any mortal struggle, and it is a singular coincidence that his death took place as nearly as possible at the same time and in the same manner as that of the late Dr. Chalmers, of Edinburgh."

1847. June 24th. Indictment for "wilful and corrupt perjury" preferred against Mr. J. C. Straford, by Mr. Augustus Newton, tried in the Queen's Bench before Lord Chief Justice Denman and a special jury. Sir F. Thesiger appeared for the defendant, and the jury, after a moment's consultation, returned a verdict of "not guilty." The Lord Chief Justice expressed his entire concurrence with the finding of the jury, and refused to allow the costs of the prosecution.

1847. July 7th. The Hon. Craven Berkeley reported to have made a speech in the House of Commons to the effect that "more deaths from miasma occurred in Cheltenham than in any other town of the same size in England." This created so much dissatisfaction that it was one of the main causes of Mr. Berkeley losing his seat at the next election. Mr. Henney, at a cost of some thirty pounds, out of his own pocket, caused an abstract of the comparative mortality of this and other towns to be made and published in the *Times* and other leading papers. This document gave the following results; that the annual number of deaths out of every thousand inhabitants, stood as follows:—In Cheltenham, 20; in Brighton, 25; in Bath, 27; in Clifton, 26; in Bristol, 28; in Birmingham, 28; in Worcester, 27; in Manchester, 31; and in Liverpool, 33. Dr. Boisragon and Mr. C. H. Hale also published letters in the "Examiner" to the same effect.

1847. July 22nd. Public dinner at the Assembly Rooms of the supporters of the Cheltenham and Oxford railway to celebrate the passing of the Company's Bill through Parliament.

1847. July 30th. Sir Willoughby Jones returned by a majority of 108 votes—the first Conservative candidate ever returned for Cheltenham. The new member was "chaired" through the town amid a general demonstration of blue favours.

1847. August 12th. Letter from Earl Fitzhardinge declining his usual present of red deer for the Cheltenham Stag Hunt; also claiming the hounds as his Lordship's property, and requiring them to be sent at once to Berkeley Castle. Mr. Theobald thereupon offered to undertake the mastership of a new pack. This offer was accepted, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Fortescue, Gardner, Thompson, Skillicorne, and Henney, appointed to make arrangements for keeping up the sport as heretofore.

1847. August 16th. First experimental trip on the Great Western Railway, with the engine D'Jered, conveying I. K. Brunel, Esq., and suite to Cheltenham.

1847. August 17th. Public dinner to Sir Willoughby Jones, M.P., at the Assembly Rooms.



1847. September 6th. Foundation stone of St. Peter's Church laid by Sir Willoughby Jones, Bart., M.P., in presence of a large number of spectators.

1847. September 16th. Sudden death, at her residence, Cheltenham, of the Hon. Anna Twistleton, mother of Lord Saye and Sele.

1847. September 19th. Died, at 4, Wollesley-terrace, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Henry Keating, K.C.B. He entered the army in 1793, and after a long period of brilliant services, was made, in 1836, a Knight Commander of the Bath, and had a service of plate of the value of five hundred guineas voted to him by the East India Government.

1847. September 27th. Died at Torquay, Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Dashwood, K.C.B., and G.C.T.S. Deceased entered the navy in 1779, and was, at the time of his death, the last living officer of the *Formidable*, in which ship he served as aide de camp to Lord Rodney in the actions of April 9th and 12th 1782. He was thus sixty-eight years in the navy, upwards of forty of which he served at sea.

1847. October 12th. Laying the first stone of Fauconberg House, Bayshall, for the residence of Mr. Charles Fowler. The building was designed by Mr. S. Onley, and it is now the residence of Col. Church Pearce.

1847. October 15th. First meet of the new pack of stag hounds at the Plough Hotel. The deer was uncartered at Shurdington, and, after making towards Cheltenham, brasted the steepest ascent of Leckhampton Hill, and was safely captured near the Seven Springs.

1847. October 15th. A proposition before the Commissioners for throwing the ordinary meetings of that body open to reporters, but not to the ratepayers, negatived by 14 votes to 7.

1847. October 17th. "Penance" at the Parish Church. An exhibition, fortunately of rare occurrence in these enlightened days, took place on Saturday last, at the Cheltenham Parish Church. Throughout the week rumours had been afloat that some unlucky wight who had made rather too free with the fair fame of his neighbours, had been ordered by the Ecclesiastical authorities to expiate his offence by doing penance in a white sheet. It was asserted that the sheet, tapers, and other paraphernalia of the ceremony had been duly provided by the churchwardens, and the curious in such matters were, of course, on the tip-toe of expectation. Saturday morning came, and towards ten o'clock some hundreds of persons found their way to the Parish Church, where the presence of the curate, the churchwardens, and a proctor from the Consistorial Court, seemed to give colour to the prevailing rumours. A large white cloth, which hung most suspiciously within the vestry door also gave "confirmation strong" of the reality of the coming ceremony, and the eager sight seers arranged themselves in the most convenient parts of the building to witness it. The galleries were filled by a motley assemblage of both sexes, every seat and pew in the vicinity of the communion table was crowded with occupants, and the venerable old structure presented more the appearance of a theatre, or a cockpit, than of a place of Christian worship. Fortunately for public decorum and decency, all this eager curiosity was doomed to disappointment. About twenty minutes after ten the culprit entered the church, and proceeded to the vestry room; but there were no bare feet, no white sheet, no lighted tapers, but a simple form of recantation was read over and subscribed to, and the crowd who thronged the sacred edifice, finding there was no fun to be seen, quietly dispersed.—"Examiner," October 20th.

1847. October 23rd. The Great Western Railway publicly opened to the station at Jessop's Nursery. Dinner at the Plough in honour of the event. The Act for making this line had been obtained many years previously, and its construction was at last carried into effect in consequence of a memorial having been

presented to the directors. It was signed by the Lord of the Manor and upwards of 300 owners and occupiers, and was accompanied by an intimation that if more time had been given to it, previous to the meeting of the directors, a much more extensive list of signatures might have been obtained.

1847. November 4th. The Town Commissioners passed a resolution to the effect that it would be desirable to have an illuminated clock over the Public Office, High-street. The resolution, from some unexplained cause, was never carried into practice.

1847. November 4th. Resignation of the Rev. W. F. Wilkinson, Theological Tutor of Cheltenham College. The rev. gentleman happening to be at a lecture given by Mr. George Dawson, in this town, proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer at the close of the proceedings. The Directors of the College censured his so doing, and this vote of censure led to his resignation. The affair caused much controversy at the time; a public meeting of the inhabitants presented an address of sympathy with Mr. Wilkinson, and a like address was presented to him by the members of the Literary Institution. Ultimately, the facts being reported to the Government, a valuable living in the city of Derby was presented to Mr. Wilkinson by the Lord Chancellor.

1848. January. Sir W. Jones, for a few months member for Cheltenham, was sojourning at the residence of his mother, Lady Jones, at Evesham-house. The Hon. Craven Berkeley, the ex-member, was staying at the same time at the Queen's Hotel.

1848. January 7. Town Commissioners' ordered a borough-rate of six-pence in the pound.

1848. January 11. The appointment of Dr. Hampden to the Bishopric of Hereford created a very warm controversy in the Church. At a meeting of the Gloucestershire clergy a resolution condemnatory of Dr. Hampden's appointment was carried by 73 to 28 votes. Dr. Jenner and the Rev. F. Close strongly opposed the resolution, and it was understood that most of the Cheltenham clergy voted against it.

1848. January 11. Died, James Corry, Esq., at his residence, Montpellier Spa-buildings, in the 76th year of his age. Mr. Corry was the intimate friend and companion of Tom Moore, the Bard of Erin, and formed one of the celebrated brotherhood of "The Kilkenny Boys," who were mixed up so largely in the events which took place in Ireland preceding, and at the time of the union.

1848. January 11. An incident occurred in connection with Mr. Feargus O'Connor's Snig's End land scheme. A number of waggons and carts passed in procession through the town containing the *settlers* and their belongings on their way to the Snig's End estate. Mr. Feargus O'Connor himself was expected to have been in the procession, but does not appear to have been present.

1848. January 25. Foundation stone of the new hospital laid by the Right Hon. Lord Dunally.

1848. February. Great dissatisfaction appears to have been created here, as elsewhere at Lord John Russell's imposition of a "five per cent. income-tax." A petition against the tax, with 900 signatures, was presented by Sir Willoughby Jones.

1848. February. Miss Jane Cooke gave five acres of land as a site for the new Training College.

1848. March. Presentation of an address to Lord Fitzhardinge on the completion of the 40th year of his annual visit to Cheltenham. The address was presented at the Dowdeswell meet, and was read by Mr. Samuel Onley amid much cheering. The report states that there were three thousand pedestrians and four hundred horsemen present on the occasion, and that the road was, for a considerable distance, lined on both sides with the carriages of the nobility and gentry.

1848. Seizure of Church-rates.—A seizure for church-rates was made last week at the house of the Rev J. Blomfield, minister of the Bethel (Baptist) Chapel. The article taken was a looking-glass, stated to be worth £1 5s. The rate and costs owing were about 8s. "Examiner," March 29.

1848. April. The "Examiner" of April 12 has the following:—"On Dit.—That among the names about to be added to the commission of the peace for this district, are those of C. L. Harford and W. N. Skillicorne, Esqrs., both residents of Cheltenham. We believe that the appointment of these gentlemen will be received with universal satisfaction."

The same paper on May 12th say:—"We stated some weeks back that the names of C. L. Harford, and W. N. Skillicorne, Esqrs., were about being added to the commission of the peace for this county. The necessary forms having since been gone through, those gentlemen are now duly empowered to qualify as Justices of the Peace for the Cheltenham district."

1848. April. Fashionable Movements.—The Earl of Ellenborough has returned to Southam, intending to pass the Parliamentary holidays amongst his Cheltenham friends. Dr. Whateley, Archbishop of Dublin, is expected to arrive in Cheltenham next week. Mrs. Whateley and part of the family have already arrived at Brandon House, near St. Phillip's Church which has been taken for his Grace's residence. —Lord Northwick, Lord Dunally, and Lord de Sanmarcar, all purpose spending the Easter recess at their respective residences in Cheltenham.—The Earl and Countess of Erne, who had been residing in Clarence-square for the last two or three months, took their departure for Dublin a few days ago. —"Examiner," April 26

1848. May. Important Post-office enquiry. A packet of political papers addressed to Mr Boodle, the Liberal agent, having been delayed in the delivery, one of the clerks in the office was accused of having opened the packet and divulged its contents. Mr. Ram-ay was sent down by the Postmaster General to enquire into the matter, and the result was that the clerk was suspended.—"Examiner," May 17.

1848. June 29. Cheltenham Election. On the night of the polling a voter named Mulcock, a fly proprietor, left his home and next day his body was found in the stream near Pittville lake. A prolonged enquiry was made into the circumstances, but the mystery was never solved.

1848. July. The Town Commissioners' resolved to write to nine members of their body, residing at a distance, soliciting their resignation in order that the vacancies might be filled up by ratepayers residing in the town.

1848. Glut of Salmon.—During the past fortnight, salmon has been selling at the fish shops at prices varying from 6d. to 9d. per lb. The itinerant vendors have been hawking it about with the cry of "Severn salmon, three pounds for a shilling!"—"Examiner," July 16.

1848. August. Obituary.—We have to record this week the death of Mr John Hulbert, of the Knapp, who for many years filled the office of High Constable, under the Lord of the Manor of Cheltenham. Mr. Hulbert was well-known, and much respected. He was a very active and useful member of the Liberal party in politics, and both in public and private his loss will be deeply regretted. His death took place on Sunday morning, the 27th. On the same day died, at Prestbury, Mr. David George, another of our oldest and most respected fellow townsmen. Mr. George had been in ill-health for many years, but his death was at last sudden and unexpected. We have had to notice the demise of an unusual number of old inhabitants of the town. A few weeks since Mr. Benjamin Norman, and more recently Mr. Johnson, engraver, and Mr. Humphris, have been recorded in our obituary.—"Examiner," August 30.

1848. September. Accounts received in Cheltenham, of the suicide of

Col. Prince, formerly well-known in the town. He was a member of the Canadian Legislature and conspicuous from his services in quelling the rebellion of 1838. He shot a number of prisoners taken in that rebellion, and was supposed to have been driven to the act of self-destruction by the odium attached to that act of cold blooded butchery. [In reference to this entry, Mr. William Hollis, of Badgeworth, an intimate friend of the Colonel, writes us on January 22nd, 1863, that the report of Col. Prince's death is altogether a mistake. Mr. Hollis says—"The Colonel is not dead; thank God for it! but still living in his glory, a hale old man, with his well earned honours smiling happily around him. With us he was a moving, busy man; in that part of her Majesty's dominions where he has since resided, he still remains a striking instance of hallowed respect among a great majority of Canadian citizens. For his exertions in putting down the rebellion he was justified, and obtained for himself great credit from the government; and he has continued a member, and considered one of the most eloquent speakers in the HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY."—WILLIAM HOLLIS.]

1848. September 15. This afternoon a deplorable accident occurred between Cheltenham and Gloucester, by which three workmen on the line were killed, and two others seriously injured. The men were engaged upon the line near the Hatherley Bridge, and were standing on the up rails counting the trucks in one of the Midland down trains, when the Great Western train from Gloucester came upon them unawares, and swept them down like a flock of sheep. No blame seems to be due to any parties connected with the railway. The engine-driver of the Great Western train blew both his whistles to apprise the poor fellows of their danger, but the noise made by the goods' trucks prevented their hearing, and it was impossible to stop the train until it had passed over them. The driver seeing he could be of no service without medical assistance, immediately drove on to Cheltenham. Dr. Brookes, the medical officer of the Great Western Company, immediately proceeded on the pilot engine to the scene of the catastrophe. On arriving there, the scene which presented itself was too awful for description. The bodies of the sufferers were crushed and mangled in a shocking manner, so much so, that it was with the greatest difficulty that the different portions were put together for conveyance to Cheltenham. The two wounded men were conveyed to the Hospital, and though shockingly mutilated ultimately recovered. [Through the good offices of Mr. Charles Hale Jessop and the Rev. A. Boyd, a sum of £230 was raised by subscription for the sufferers by this unfortunate occurrence, by which three widows and fourteen orphan children were deprived of their protectors.]

1848. September 21. Arrival of Sir Charles Napier in Cheltenham. "This gallant veteran arrived in Cheltenham on Thursday, and, as we announced last week, has taken up his residence in Imperial Square. He has daily been among the most conspicuous attendants at our spas and promenades, and has been engaged in receiving and returning the visits of his brother officers at present residing here. Sir Charles has brought with him his horse (a little Arab) which bore him during most of his Indian battles, and mounted on which he may be daily seen in public. Among the officers who have served with him, and who are now in Cheltenham, may be mentioned Colonel Willie, his Adjutant-General; Major McMurdo, his son-in-law, and Quartermaster-General, who was with him through all his Indian battles; Colonel Lloyd, who commanded his Artillery; Major Leslie, commanding the Horse Artillery, and commanding it so gallantly, that, at the especial command of Lord Ellenborough, it is known as "Leslie's Troop;" Major Poole, of the gallant 22nd Regiment, the regiment led by Napier himself into action; Captain Tait, commanding the Regular Horse; Colonel Harrison, who commanded the Light Company of the 50th (Sir Charles's—then Major Napier—own regiment) at the battle of Corunna; Captain Robertson,

who served with him in the Peninsular and America; Colonel Clarke Kennedy, who so gallantly captured the French standard at Waterloo; and several others whom we cannot particularize."—"Examiner," Sept. 27.

1848. September 28. Preliminary meeting to consider the propriety of introducing the "Health of Towns' Act" into Cheltenham. At a public meeting, held October 10, it was resolved to petition for the introduction of the Act.

1848. October 5. Public Dinner to Sir Charles Napier at the Queen's Hotel. Lords Ellenborough, Northwick, and Dunally, and between 80 and 90 Indian officers as-embled to welcome the veteran at this banquet.

1848. October 15. Died, at the advanced age of 76, Richd. Oglesvy, Esq., R.N. Deceased was in the navy between forty and fifty years; was a master in 1804, and possessed at the time of his death his original appointment to H.M.S. Hydra, on the 18th of January, 1805, with the signature "Nelson and Bronte," in the handwriting of the great naval hero. Capt. Oglesvy served under Lords Collingwood and Nelson, and with Sir Ralph Abercrombie. He was engaged at the Nile, at Trafalgar, and the other great sea-fights of the last war, and was present on board the Victory when the immortal Nelson received his death wound. He was the messmate at various times with Rear-Admiral Sir Salisbury Devonport, Rear-Admiral Sir J. Munday, and the Hon. Capt. Berkeley. During his retirement from active service he led a quiet and secluded life, but he maintained to the last the friendship and esteem of those gallant spirits with whom, in more troublous times, he had "braved the battle and the breeze" in his country's service.

1848. November 1. The Great Western Railway Directors discontinued the practice of issuing return tickets between this town and London.

1848. November 1. Great Meeting at the Town Hall to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Church Missionary Society.

1848. November 12. Cheltenham Parish Church was crowded to-day, morning and evening, when the Rev. Alexander Crummel, a gentleman of colour, delivered two sermons in behalf of the funds of the Negro Church, New York. His appeals were responded to by collections amounting to £90.

1848. November 15. Preliminary announcement of Messrs. Rowe and Onley, proprietors of the Old Wells, for restoring these wells, and preserving them for ever, as a public ornament and attraction to the town of Cheltenham.

1848. November 23. First appearance of Jenny Lind in Cheltenham; she sang at the Montpellier Rotunda. It is said that some of our local speculators in amusements offered the fair singer 400 guineas for one or 700 guineas for two concerts, but that the offer was declined.

1848. November 28. Presentation of a massive service of plate, subscribed for exclusively by the wives of electors of the borough, to the Hon. Craven F. Berkeley.

1849. January 18. Considerable excitement, caused by an alleged threat of the Rev. F. Close to withdraw his support from the Cheltenham Hospital, if the Board received the proceeds of an amateur dramatic performance, got up in its favour. The entertainment took place on the 18th, and the audience was one of the most aristocratic ever assembled in Cheltenham. Mr. Close wrote an explanatory letter, stating that though he was opposed to all dramatic entertainments, he never threatened to withdraw his support from the Hospital; but, on the contrary, had advised the Board to accept the proceeds, as the entertainment was got up without their interference.

1849. February 8. It was stated at the meeting of the Guardians this day, that the yearly consumption of beer and spirits in the Workhouse, (with an average number of 218 adult inmates), amounted to £277 12s. 3d. From a tabular statement laid before the Board, it appeared that the annual cost per

head for spirituous liquors in nine unions is as follows: In Liverpool, 10s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Bath, 1s. 4d.; Strood, 2s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Chatham, 9s. 7d.; Worcester, 5s. 5d.; Tewkesbury, 3s. 3d.; Northleach, 6s. 6d.; Pershore, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and in Cheltenham, 21s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

1849. February 22. Edward Creasey, Esq., commenced an official enquiry at the George Hotel as to the advisability of applying the provisions of the Public Health Act to Cheltenham.

1849. March. News arrived in Cheltenham of the disastrous battles of Chillianwallah on the Jhelum; wherein the British, under Lord Gough, met with severe reverses, having 26 officers killed and 66 wounded. Sir Charles Napier was immediately applied to by the Duke of Wellington to take the command of the Indian army; and it was on this occasion the Duke addressed Sir Charles in the memorable words: "If you don't go, I must." Among the officers who fell in these disasters was Brigadier Pennycuik, and many others well-known in Cheltenham. During one of his visits to London, Sir Charles Napier was transacting business at the Horse Guards; and it was suggested by the authorities there, that it might be a satisfaction to Sir Charles, and a consolation, though a mournful one to Mrs. Pennycuik, if he were to charge himself with the delivery of the medal, &c., to which her husband had been entitled. He readily engaged to do so. Sympathy for the widow, and warm regard for his fallen friend, engrossed the hero's thoughts, and two hours were not suffered to elapse after his return to Cheltenham, ere he found or made an opportunity to discharge the sad duty which he had undertaken, and Mrs. Pennycuik had the mournful satisfaction of receiving the expressions of Sir C. Napier's high appreciation of her husband's merits, and the tokens of his country's approbation of his services, at the hands of the man whom that husband most valued.

1849. March 13. DEPARTURE OF SIR CHARLES NAPIER FROM CHELTENHAM. The "Examiner" gives the following account of his departure:

"The gallant general left Cheltenham for London yesterday afternoon by express train. He was accompanied to town by his son-in-law, Major McMurdo, and other members of his family. A number of his old companions in arms, and others, thronged the platform, and greeted him with hearty cheers, and many warm wishes for the success of his mission. Among those present, we noticed—Capt. Sir Richard O'Connor, B.N., Col. Clark Kennedy, General Hunter, Col. de Coursey, Capt. Robertson, Capt. Phibbs, Capt. Kirwan, Mr. Stewart, Capt. Iredell, Capt. Dwaris, Mr. Fortescue, Mr. Henney, Mr. Wightwick, Mr. Ridler, Mr. Walters, (of the *Times*), Mr. Schonswar, Capt. Cox, &c., &c.

"On entering the carriage which was to bear him away, the gallant hero was again greeted with cheers, and his old friends pressed round the window to offer him their last congratulations. On these manifestations subsiding, Sir Charles addressed the assembled multitude to the following effect:

"Ladies and gentlemen,—I thank you for your kind attention in coming to see me leave. I wish you all good bye, and I hope I may not disappoint the wishes and hopes of my country."

"Loud cheering followed this brief address, and was again renewed as the carriage rolled swiftly away, bearing with it a brave and gallant heart, towards the scene of his past glories and future labours, and we trust, future victories."

1849. March 23. ST. PETER'S CHURCH. The new church of St. Peter's on the Tewkesbury-road, was consecrated on Thursday last. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol officiated at the ceremony, the sermon being preached by the Rev. J. Brown, of Trinity. The new building is of very unique design, and reflects great credit on Mr. Dawkes, the architect, and Mr. T. Haines, the

builder. The church has been erected almost entirely by private subscription. The Communion table was the gift of Messrs. Urch and Seabright, and the porch was presented by Mr. J. Simmonds, the churchwarden. "Examiner," March 28. [The funds required for this building amounted to £2,000, and Mr. John Russell, who was authorised by the Incumbent to collect subscriptions. From Mr. Russell's subscription book we extract a few of the donations, viz.:—Rev. F. Close, £25; a Lady, £100; S. Anderson, £50, (and £50 more if required); a Friend, £50; Anonymous, £100; J. Fothergill, Esq., £50; N. Hartland, Esq., £25; Mrs. Tatham (widow of the late rector of Lincoln College, Oxford), £50; J. A. Gardner, Esq., £25; E. L. Armitage, Esq., £50; Mrs. Williams, £50, (and £50 more if required); Mrs. Mitford, £25; Sir Richard Wollesley, Bart., £5; T. Bodley, Esq., £20; J. P. W. Butt, Esq., £50; Mrs. Morgan, £25; Geo. Stokes, Esq., £15. A sufficient fund was thus raised to entitle the church to be placed under the controul of trustees, instead of the patronage becoming alienated to the crown. The subjoined engravings represent the exterior and interior of this beautiful edifice.]



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, TEWKESBURY ROAD.

1849. March 26. Col. John Wolridge, of Cleveland House, destroyed himself by jumping into the Marle Hill pond. Deceased, who was in his 69th year, had been in an unsettled state of mind for some time from the effects of a railway accident.

1849. March 27. The Cheltenham *Free Press* sold by auction to the present proprietor, Mr. Alfred Harper.

1849. April. WAR MEDALS. The following officers in Cheltenham are mentioned to us as having received the war medal: Lieut.-Col. Cabbage, with seven clasps; Major Bowby, with five clasps; Capt. Miles, with one clasp; Lieut. Dwarrie, R.N., with one clasp; Lieut. Bridges, R.N., with one clasp; Capt. Lloyd, R.N., of Priory Cottage, in this town, has had conferred upon him.

by the First Lord of the Admiralty, one of the two good service pensions of £150 per annum. Long may he live to enjoy it. "Examiner," April 4.



INTERIOR OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

1849. April 19. The foundation stone of the Cheltenham Training College, laid by Lord Ashley, now Earl Shaftesbury. Dr. Hugh McNeillie preached on the occasion.

1849. May 3. The Board of Guardians, by a majority of 19 to 9, decided on remunerating the assistant-overseer by a fixed salary of £300 per annum, instead of, as heretofore, paying him partly by salary and partly by poundage.

1849. DECREASE OF MARRIAGES IN CHELTENHAM. The Registrar General of Marriages has perpetrated a sad libel upon the gallantry of the beaux of Cheltenham. Rapidly as the town is increasing in population, it would appear from the Registrar's returns that the marriages have decreased in number, within the last five years, in proportion of 137 to 96. A fact not very creditable to the character of Young Cheltenham. "Examiner," May 23.

1849. May 9. Meeting at Gloucester, convened on the requisition of owners and occupiers of 407,765 acres of land in the county, to consider "the present distressed state of the agricultural interest and the best means to be adopted for the relief thereof."

1849. "A good time coming." We are enabled to announce to the rate-payers of Cheltenham, on what we believe to be pretty good authority, that two of the most important items in our local burdens are likely to undergo this year a sensible diminution. The poor-rates, which have been for the last year or two 8s. in the pound per annum, will, we believe, be reduced to 2s. or 2s. 6d.; while the Commissioners rates will be also reduced from 16d. in the pound to about 14d.; forming a reduction on these two items of one-fourth of the entire amount. "Examiner," June 27.



1849. Fish: Salmon has been so plentiful during the past week, that prime "Severn" has been ticketed at 7d., and "Irish" at 6d. per lb.—"Examiner," July 18.

1849. July 27.  $\Sigma$  Suicide of Capt. Robert John Colville, of 2, Paragon-terrace, aged 70.

1849. July 27. **THE RICKETTS' WILL CAUSE.** "This week a judgment was delivered in the Prerogative Court, which puts an end, we hope for ever, to the long pending suit, known as 'the Ricketts' will cause.' Those who are, fortunately for themselves, inexperienced in the harassments of litigation, know nothing of the vast amount of wrong and persecution which may be inflicted under colour of the law. To such it will hardly appear credible, that the proceedings in our Police Court in 1842, can be connected with a suit still pending in 1849; that throughout these long years runs one continuous chain of events, in which the same parties have been tortured by the most cunning devices, have been subjected to the most harassing disquiet of mind and body, and have been mulcted in legal expenses to an amount, which of itself swells into a fortune. Yet such is the case. Though gaining decision after decision in their favour, the same charges have been multiplied in form, and brought under the notice of Court after Court, until at last we have arrived at what, we trust, will be a final decision. It is some consolation to these parties to know that the judge who pronounced this decision, also characterised in severe terms the nature of the proceedings which had been instituted against them. It must be consolatory to the surviving members of this estimable family, that the Court had declared them to have been the victims of 'persecution' and 'vindictive proceedings.' It must be consolatory to the respected head of that family, to hear from the Court that "it could not believe for one moment" the charges brought against her; and it must be consolatory also to Mr. Stratford, the solicitor for the defendants, to hear from the same high legal authority, that of the grave charges brought against him that he had been "honourably acquitted," and that the other accusations against him were 'equally unfounded.' We regret that our experience of the law of libel forbids us to give a verbatim report of this important judgment, that the public may see in what indignant language the opinions of the judge were conveyed to his hearers."—"Examiner," August 1st.

1849. August 9. Sale of the Police Station and lock-up in Ambrose-street; also the "Public Stocks," by Mr. Charles Wood, under instructions from the Town Commissioners.

1849. August. Deaths from cholera throughout the country, between 200 and 300 a week. The disease was for some weeks at Gloucester and other neighbouring towns; but Cheltenham was again favoured to escape the infection. The "Examiner," speaking of the ravages of the disease, says—"Still our own town has escaped the contagion, a fact which is singular, and almost marvellous, when we take into consideration our close proximity to the infected places, and the rapid and constant means of communication which exist between us. We recur to this subject, not as affording any excuse for vain boasting, but as one which cannot be too frequently impressed upon the public mind. Whether the immunity which we enjoy is owing, as some suppose, to our mineral waters, or, as others allege, to our excellent sanitary condition, the result is one which equally calls for our thankfulness and gratitude." The same paper of August 23, says—"It will be seen that the cholera has made its appearance in the city of Bath, and that several fatal cases have occurred. We are most happy in being able to state that the health of Cheltenham continues good. The number of deaths from August 1st to the 21st, a period of twenty days, is, as copied from the official records, only twenty-seven, and of these twenty-seven no less than twelve were under one year of age. This exceedingly low rate of mortality, in a population

of 40,000 persons, speaks volumes as to our sanitary condition." (The total number of deaths from cholera throughout the country, from Aug. 11 to 27, being 16 days, were 11,695.)

1849. September 7. Rev. F. Close returned to Cheltenham from his usual Summer excursion. On his arrival, a deputation of his parishioners presented him with an address, and the sum of £509 to clear off a debt, for which he had become personally liable, in reference to the completion of the Training College. In his sermon on the following Sunday, at the Parish Church, the rev. gentleman alluded to the exemption of the town from the ravages of the epidemic which was affecting nearly every other part of the kingdom. Some, he said, attributed the exemption of Cheltenham from the disease to its mineral waters; that opinion might be correct; but if it was, it ought not to lessen our gratitude to that Divine Being, who had cast our lot in a place so peculiarly healthy and exempt from epidemic diseases.

1849. September 9. The burials in Cheltenham for the past fourteen days numbered only 15, of which 5 were of infants. In the following seven days, there were only 8 burials, 5 of which were of infants, under two years' old.

1849. September 25. Observed as a day of National humiliation and prayer. The collections in the various churches and chapels amounted to nearly £600. At the Parish Church in the evening, it was intended to sing the Vesper Hymn, at the conclusion of the service, but on the organist attempting to perform the air, it was found that the heat was so intense that the organ could not be made to sound. Not only was every corner *within* the church crowded to suffocation but crowds were congregated around the doors and windows. The other churches and chapels were almost equally crowded.

1849. September 29. The Queen and Royal Family passed the Cheltenham station at Lansdown on their way from Scotland. The school children, to the number of 5,000, were drawn up along the line, and tens of thousands of people thronged the embankments. The Royal travellers acknowledged the plaudits of the multitude as the train swept by.

1849. October 3. The copyright of the *Cheltenham Chronicle* offered for sale by auction. There was no *bona fide* bidding and the "lot" was bought in for £120.

1849. October 17. The "Examiner," of this date, notices that Mr. Pearson Thompson, for many years proprietor of the Montpellier and Lansdown estate, had during the past week, emigrated to Australia.

1849. November. Mr. Cseasey publishes his report, recommending the abolition of the then self-elected Board of Commissioners, in favour of a Board with enlarged powers, elected by the ratepayers.

1849. November. The Registrar General's report of the mortality for the September quarters for the years 1845-6-7-8-9, show that out of every 10,000 inhabitants, there died—at Bristol, 390; at Clifton, 362; at Stroud, 235; and at Cheltenham, only 206.

1849. November 15. Day of National thanksgiving on the disappearance of the cholera; the contributions of the Cheltenham congregations towards various benevolent objects amounted to £600.

1849. November 17. Presentation of a handsome service of plate to Capt. Litchfield, R.A., for his services during nine years as hon. secretary of Cheltenham College.

1849. December 24. On Christmas Eve, Lady Pynn was burned to death at her residence, Promenade. Deceased was suffering from an accident she sustained a few weeks ago, and while sitting by her drawing room fire, her muslin dress ignited, and she was so shockingly burnt that death ensued in a few hours.

1850. January. The Town Commissioners publish a statement of 40 pages as a reply to certain statistics in Mr. Creasy's report. This "statement" gives the following as the comparative rate of mortality in Cheltenham and neighbouring towns. The following is an extract :—

	Deaths in 1845.	Deaths in 1849.
Cheltenham . . . . .	1 in 53½	1 in 61
Clifton . . . . .	1 in 41½	1 in 20*
Bristol . . . . .	1 in 41½	1 in 18½*
Stroud . . . . .	1 in 51½	1 in 48½

\* The large per centage of deaths in Clifton and Bristol in the latter year was caused by cholera, from which Cheltenham was exempt.

1850. January 8. Mr. J. Francillon, County Court Judge, appointed chairman over the second court for criminal business at Quarter Sessions.

1850. January 22. Public meeting at the Town Hall, to hear statements from the Revs. Everett, Dunn, and Griffiths, the expelled Wesleyan preachers, whose cases caused much sympathy throughout the country among the friends of religious liberty. Resolutions of sympathy were moved and supported by Messrs. Moody Bell, John Lane, Humphris, Fry, Nicholls, Mark Lane, and James Russell, and adopted by the meeting, with only one dissentient.

1850. February 7. Sudden death from disease of the heart, of R. C. Sherwood, Esq., of 4, Suffolk Lawn, aged 70 years.

1850. February 7. Fearful storm in Cheltenham, during which one of the turrets on the tower of Christ Church was blown down, and in many cases the windows in exposed situations were blown *en masse* into the drawing-rooms. A range of green-houses at Evans's (now Burgess) Nurseries, on the London-road, were blown down.

1850. February. HEALTH OF CHELTENHAM. The official returns of the Registrar-General for the summer and winter quarters of 1849 furnish the following important results. The number of deaths in Cheltenham out of every 10,000 inhabitants is materially less than the number occurring in the whole county, or in any one of its rivals, the fashionable watering-places of the kingdom—proving incontestably that the town is, as it has always been represented to be, among the most healthy in the whole kingdom. During the half-year ending December 31, 1849, the number of deaths out of every 10,000 inhabitants have been as under:—

In Cheltenham . . . . .	to every 10,000 persons . . . . .	94 deaths.
In Brighton . . . . .	to every 10,000 persons . . . . .	180 deaths.
In Clifton . . . . .	to every 10,000 persons . . . . .	199½ deaths.
In Bath . . . . .	to every 10,000 persons . . . . .	119½ deaths.
In Scarborough . . . . .	to every 10,000 persons . . . . .	124½ deaths.
In Gloucester . . . . .	to every 10,000 persons . . . . .	128 deaths.
In Bristol . . . . .	to every 10,000 persons . . . . .	215 deaths.

Comparing Cheltenham with the average mortality in the whole county of Gloucester, the result is equally favourable—Cheltenham being only 94 in 10,000, while Gloucestershire is 132½ in 10,000. Devonshire, again, which is a favourite resort with tourists, lost 143 persons out of every 10,000 during the past half-year, while Cheltenham lost only 94. With regard to epidemic diseases, the most eminent medical men, of 30 and 40 years' standing, have certified to the Board of Health that fatal epidemics are extremely rare in Cheltenham, and that typhus fever, that fatal scourge of other towns, is almost unknown.—"Examiner," Feb. 13. [The same paper contained letters from Dr. Gibney, Mr. Charles

Fowler, Mr. T. J. Cottle, Mr. C. J. Hawkins, and Mr. D. Hartley, all bearing testimony to the freedom of the town from diseases of an epidemic nature.]

1850. February. Road from Bath Road to the new Hospital improved and widened, the funds being raised by private subscription.

1850. February 22. Sudden death of Mr. John Smith Raviere, one of the oldest and most respected tradesmen of the town.

1850. February. Negotiations for an amicable settlement of the dispute as to Local Government. Messrs. G. E. Williams, G. A. Williams, J. A. Gardner, and William Ridler proceeded to London, and had an interview with Lord Carlisle with a view to the introduction of the Public Health Act, with certain modifications required by the peculiar conditions of Cheltenham.

1850. March 14. Public meeting in favour of the proposed International Exhibition of 1851, Lord Fitzhardinge in the chair. The Rev. F. Close, Mr. Grenville Berkeley, and others, addressed the meeting, and at its conclusion a subscription list was opened, Lord Fitzhardinge putting down his name for a donation of £50.

1850. April 10. A batch of emigrants, 240 in number, sent out by the Board of Guardians, left Cheltenham for Gloucester, where they took ship, per "Corsair," for their destination. [In connection with the schemes of emigration, set on foot in this year, it should be mentioned that Mr. John Russell collected a large amount in subscriptions, to be devoted partly to assist in paying the passage money of poor emigrants, and partly in providing them with clothing and other comforts during the voyage. So successful was Mr. Russell's appeal, that a number of his fellow townsmen entertained him to a supper, at the Rose and Crown Inn,—Mr. Caldicott, chairman, and Mr. Howlett, vice-chairman,—and in the course of the evening he was presented with a handsome gold watch and chain, and a silver tankard, bearing the following inscription—"Presented to Mr. John Russell, with a valuable gold watch and chain, by his friends, as a mark of their esteem for his exertions in the cause of charity, many families having been enabled to emigrate, and others rendered prosperous, by his gratuitous services in their behalf.—Cheltenham, June 5th, 1851."]

1850. May 17. Mr. Augustus Newton "disbarred" for unprofessional practices. The following is a copy of the official notice posted in the Hall of the Temple:—"Middle Temple—At a special Parliament, held by adjournment on the 17th of May, 1850—Resolved, That the call of Augustus Newton be vacated, and that he be disbarred and expelled from the Society."

1850. June. Great Prestbury Footpath Case. A footpath over Prestbury Park having been closed by the owner of the property, a procession, headed by the High Bailiff, the Parish Churchwarden, and attended by Mr. Boodle, solicitor, proceeded *vi et armis* to remove the obstruction. The affair is thus described in a "legend" which appeared in the current number of the "Cheltenham Examiner":—"A Legend of Prestbury Park.—The Battle of the Footpath!

"'Tis not for love of worthless spoil,

In freedom's cause we fight;

We battle for our native soil,

'May God defend the right!'—*Old Song.*

"Englishmen are proverbially jealous of their rights. You may coax, and wheedle, and "blarney" John Bull to give the eye-teeth out of his head, if you choose to set about it; but once begin to bluster and bully him, or to interfere with his liberties, or to stand at the door of his domicile and say, "You don't lodge here, John!" and you raise his dander in a moment. At the least infringement of his privileges he is the most pugnacious fellow in existence; for although he "right" you may happen to interfere with may be the most insignificant

thing in the world, yet he upholds it for the sake of the principle involved in it, and the moment you attempt to call it in question, he is ready to do battle for it to the death, for "his soul's in arms and eager for the fray." It was not the *amount* of the ship-money, but the *right* of the King to levy it, that called forth a Hampden from his privacy, and raised him to the rank of one of the worthies of English history; it was not the *amount* of the tea tax, but the *principle* of it, that fired the good people of Boston with the spirit of resistance, and led to the formation of one of the greatest empires of the world. Therefore we say truly that an Englishman is proverbially jealous of his rights. It is good to see that this old-fashioned English feeling is not extinct amongst us, even in these degenerate days. Chivalry did not go out with hair-powder and knee buckles, nor cowardice come in with reform in parliament and free trade. If we are not mistaken, men in black coats and trousers and Wellington boots are as careful of their rights—aye, and as willing to defend them, too—as their forefathers were who wore the antique toggerly of the Cromwells and the Stuarts. For instance, we witnessed the other day a sight which carried us back in imagination to the glorious days of Hampden and ship-money, and invested the banks of the gentle Chelt and the adjacent hill of Marle with the memories and enchantment of classic ground. We saw a procession of "grave and potent seignours"—a Russell, bearing on his ample shoulders the chief authority in his bailiwick—a Hasell, wearing round his neck the white insignia of the holy mother Church—a Boodle, learned in the law, and other notable burgesses and citizens, proceeding forth to do battle to a common enemy. We saw that the procession was headed by two sturdy yeomen, bearing each an axe upon his shoulder; we saw them approach a spot where the sons and daughters of Cheltenham had possessed the right of passing and re-passing from time immemorial; we saw that some encroacher on this right had raised a stout barrier, and dug a deep trench across the time-honoured footpath; we heard a formal demand made upon the said usurper, that he should remove all "let and hindrance" from the path of the besiegers, or otherwise they would, by mainprize and force of arms, make good their passage against all opposition; we saw that, no answer being made to this summons, the stout yeomen aforesaid did then and there proceed to break down the barricade, and fill up the trench; and so, all obstruction being removed, the Russells and the Hasells, the Boodles, and the other burgesses and citizens did pass freely over, and then as freely depart—having established their right—no man making them afraid. When they had all passed away, leaving the two sturdy yeomen behind them to guard the pass, we could not help moralizing on the scene we had witnessed, and we thought within ourselves what a noble feeling was this jealousy of the rights and privileges of the people; we contrasted, too, the modern mode of asserting such rights with the method which was in vogue in by-gone days, and we came to the conclusion that it was a noble spectacle to see men asserting their rights by resolute, but legal and peaceable means, when the time had been that they must have battled for them amid bloodshed and rebellion. We thought, too, how well the men whose acts we have been chronicling deserved the praises of their fellow-citizens; how insignificant it might appear to some, this "pothor" about an obscure footpath, and yet how important it was to the many that these breathing-vessels of great cities should be preserved to the use and enjoyment of the poor. To "pampered luxury," rolling along in its carriage, or the drowsy sluggard turning on his bed of down, the right to walk through Prestbury Park may be a matter of small concernment; but it is different with men who, like us, have a passion for the maiden blush of morning, and who may be often seen at such seasons, and at this very spot,

"Brushing, with hasty step, the dews away,  
To meet the sun upon the upland lawn."

Well, as we thus moralized, we found that "the battle of the footpath" was not yet over. We observed a hale and burly husbandman, with a posse of hinds at his heels, come forth from his hiding place to reconnoitre. Finding the besieging party withdrawn, they began to replace, with might and main, the prostrate barrier, and to dig anew the obnoxious ditch. Just as they had completed their task, and were wiping the sweat from their brows, the two yeoman aforesaid, who had been lying *perdue*, again came to the rescue, and, with their axes and their spades, again completed the work of destruction. The passage being again clear, they exclaimed, to the wondering indignation of the husbandman, "There now, my men, we be paid for doing this; and the oftener you puts it up, the oftener we shall chop it down, and the more pay we shall get;" and then, night coming on, the belligerents for a time suspended their operations. On the following morning, we were somehow irresistibly attracted to the scene of action. It was the Sabbath, when men rest from their labours; but we observed that one ever-active and busy "B" was already stirring, and at the place before us. We saw him perch himself upon the disputed stile, so as to make good the "right" against all comers. Anon the husbandman and his hinds again approached the spot. The sinner on the stile exclaimed, "I claim my right to occupy this spot, who dare lay a finger on me to remove me?" The husbandman looked irresolute; again he piled up his thorns, and bade his hinds to fill the ditch; but he dared put neither thorn nor spade on the spot where the speaker sat, or to lay a finger upon his person, but at last turned mattering away. And I saw that the right was established, that the victory was won; and I heard an "early bird" piping forth, from the adjacent oak tree.

"Well done, our worthy citizens,  
And Boodle, well done he;  
And when he next chops down a fence,  
May I be there to see!"

Thus ends the "Legend." Our tale has been chronicled with a spice of humour, but withal in no spirit of slight or derision. It was a noble spectacle. It was a victory more worthy of being recorded than hundreds which have been handed in their day with a salvo of artillery. The actors in it performed a deed which was worthy of the age of chivalry; they deserve for what they have done the thanks of all, more especially of the poor. They have established a right which is especially valuable to the poor—to those whose heritage is toil—to whom recreation is a luxury, and whose only property in God's earth is the right to walk over it, and to feast their eyes upon its beauties. All honour, then, to the vanquishers of Farmer Thayer—to the destroyers of his thorny barriers—to the openers of the public footway over Prestbury Park!

"Those village Hampdens, who, with dauntless breast,  
The little tyrants of their fields withstood;  
While the *vox populi* roared out, 'I'm blest  
If that there sight don't do a Briton good.'"

Cheltenham, June 10, 1850.

HAMPDENIENSIS.

1850. June 12. Mr. C. H. Hale threw out a suggestion in the "Examiner" for the erection of public fountains in our principal thoroughfares.

1850. June 20. Monster flower show at the Old Wells to inaugurate the management of Messrs. Rowe and Onley, by whom the property had been purchased, and who, after removing all the unsightly buildings which previously existed, had just completed the present noble music hall and pump room at a cost of £5,000 or £6,000. The gardens themselves had been entirely removed and re-arranged; and, on their being thrown open for the present fete, they were

thronged with the leading county families, the number of visitors being estimated at nearly 5,000.

1850. June. Cheltenham post-office closed on Sundays, in accordance with a vote of the House of Commons on the Sabbath question. The non-delivery of letters caused such a general outcry that after a few weeks' trial the post-office was again open for one delivery a day. The annual attempts to interfere with the Sunday postal arrangements were from that time abandoned.

1850. July. Strange recognition. Letters have been received from Mr. Pearson Thompson, formerly proprietor of the Montpellier Spa and estate, Cheltenham, announcing his safe arrival in Sydney, in the capacity of an emigrant. Of course at such a distance from his native place, Mr. Thompson little expected to meet with many reminiscences of the old country, and more especially of Cheltenham; judge, then, of his surprise when, on mounting a stage coach, shortly after his arrival, he was greeted with joyous tones of recognition by the driver, and on looking up he discovered in the Jehu the person of an old servant, who had been in his employ for many years in Cheltenham. The meeting of master and man, after so many years, at such a distance from England, and under circumstances so totally unexpected affords a curious incident in "the chapter of accidents."—"Examiner," July 10.

1850. July. A man of property in the Workhouse. In the course of some discussion before the Cheltenham Guardians on Thursday, it came out that one of the inmates of the Workhouse is what is commonly termed "a man of property." The name of the man is George Witts, and it would appear that being possessed of certain "lands, tenements, and hereditaments," he had been in the habit of leaving the house regularly every fortnight for the purpose of "receiving his rents"! He alleged that his property was heavily mortgaged, and that he was willing to sell all his interest on it for the sum of £5, but admitted that he was in the habit of smuggling contraband articles into the Workhouse, such as tea, sugar, and tobacco. He was told that if he would avoid a prosecution, he had better leave the house instantaneously, but he replied that he should do nothing of the kind—he had a right to meat, drink, lodging and washing at the public expense, and he should maintain his right against all the Boards in the universe. The matter was referred to a committee."—"Examiner," July 24.

1850. August. Election of Coroner. The candidates were Mr. Septimus Pruen, and Mr. Joseph Lovegrove. The numbers were—Pruen, 1661; Lovegrove, 1555. Mr. S. Pruen ultimately resigned the office in Mr. Lovegrove's favour.

1850. August 7. The new music hall at the Old Wells formally inaugurated by a grand concert, at which Mr. Sims Reeves, Herr Formes, Miss Catherine Hayes, and other "stars" of the first magnitude, appeared before a Cheltenham audience.

1850. August 19. Turning of first sod for the foundation of Dr. Brown's new chapel in Winchcomb-street. The foundation stone was laid, September 25, by Mr. H. O. Wills, of Bristol.

1850. September 9. First dramatic entertainment in the music hall, Old Wells. A prologue was written for the occasion by W. M. Tarrt, Esq.

1850. September 24. Sale of the Queen's Hotel, and other property, by Mr. George Robins. The highest bid was £14,000, and it was bought in at £18,000. It was stated that the ground on which the hotel stands cost £7,000, while the cost of the building itself was £40,000. The rental actually paid for it at one time was £2,100 per annum.

1850. October. Mr. Lingwood published the first proposal for the purchase of the Clarence Hotel, so that the whole business of the administration of justice—police office, barracks, residence for chief constable, &c.—might be concentrated at one spot.

1850. October 5. Death of the Rev. J. C. Eggington, of Wellington Villa. Deceased met with an accident on the 21st September, when, in putting his horse at a fence in the neighbourhood of Andoversford, the animal caught his foot in the top stones of the wall and rolled with his rider into the adjoining field. The injuries received were of so serious a nature as to cause his death as above stated.

1850. October 2. Died at Woodford, near Berkeley, aged 93 years, Mr. James Ingram, proprietor of the Fox Inn, in that village. Mr. Ingram was the last survivor of the crew of the Royal George, which sunk at Spithead, on the 19th August, 1782. His escape was almost miraculous. He was below at the time the vessel sunk, but was fortunate enough to get out at one of the port-holes. As he was swimming on shore one of the persons who was on board at the time of the accident, and who, like himself, was struggling for life, caught hold of one of his feet and dragged him towards the bottom. In attempting to free himself from the deadly grasp one of Mr. Ingram's shoes came off, and he was by this means released from his perilous situation; the other shoe he retained as a relic to his dying day. Before reaching shore he saw a woman buffeting with the waves, and being an expert swimmer he brought her safely to land with him. Mr. Ingram had seen a great deal of service, having been at the siege of Gibraltar, when it was attacked by the combined fleets of France and Spain, and also in many other actions. His sight and health were remarkably good up to within a very short time of his death. The writer of this saw him a very little while ago shaving himself before a looking glass in his tap-room, without the aid of spectacles. Deceased was well known to the travellers by the old coach road from Gloucester to Bristol, as the coachmen used generally to pull up to allow their passengers to see the veteran whose life had been marked by so miraculous an incident. "Examiner," October 9.

1850. October. The Great Western Railway having announced Sunday excursion trains along their lines, and to Cheltenham, a public meeting was convened by the clergy, at which addresses were delivered against the innovation.

1850. October 22. Miss Fanny Kemble commenced a series of Shakespearian readings at the Assembly Rooms. The Rev. F. Close in the same week gave a lecture on "The Tendencies of the Stage, Religious and Moral," in which he strongly objected to all dramatic representations. Miss Kemble, however, was honoured by a brilliant audience, among whom the following names were enumerated as having been present:—Lord Northwick, Captain Rushout, Mr. Quintin Dick, M.P., Sir George and Lady Pocock, Lady and Miss Vane, Mr. Fortescue, the Misses Esgar and party. Hon. G. J. Irby and Miss Irby, Major-Gen. Woulfe and party, Mrs. Collett, the Misses Blakeney, Mrs. Rycroft Best and family, Colonel and Mrs. Stirling Glover, Mr. Hallewell and family, Mrs. Dolbell and party, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Price, Mr. Ansley Robinson, Dr. Acworth and party, the Rev. Mr. Rashdall and Mrs. Rashdall, Rev. John Edwards and party, Mr. and Mrs. Waddingham, Captain and Mrs. Wiloughby, Mrs. Butler and party, Mrs. Mr. and Mrs. Graves and party, Mrs. Major Brown and party, Mrs. Duff and party, Mrs. Major Brown and party, Dr. and Mrs. Sherlock Willis and party, Mr. W. M. Tarrt, Esq., &c. &c. "Examiner," October 23.

1850. November 1. Meeting at the Assembly Rooms to protest against the late proceedings of Mr. Pruen's supporters in the election of coroner. Lord Redesdale in the chair. On the 11th, a counter meeting of Mr. Pruen's friends was held, Mr. Grenville Berkeley, M.P., in the chair. In reference to this controversy, Mr. Peter Vines, the Liberal Factotum, displayed at Mr. Pruen's meeting, a monster key of 10 pounds weight! The "Examiner" of the following week, says that this must be the key of the consciences of the 200 voters who qualified for "21, Regent-street," and suggested that "should the newly-elected



coroner hold his own, and the Regent-street freeholders maintain their votes, the key should be kept bright—bright as their own consciences—and form in future a conspicuous object in all local processions. Should the Regent-street freeholders be disfranchised, the key might be converted into medals, which each might wear in future in token of his patriotic exertions.”

1850. November 11. Great meeting at the Town Hall, to protest against “Papal Aggression,” and present a loyal address to her Majesty on the late appointment of Roman Catholic Bishops. Mr. Grenville Berkeley, Mr. Close, Mr. J. A. Gardner, Mr. Tarr, Rev. A. Boyd, the Rev. J. E. Bloomfield (Baptist), and Capt. Robertson, were among the speakers.

1850. November 21. An attempt to burn in effigy the Pope and Cardinals stopped by the police, acting under the orders of the magistrates. The effigies were exhibited in the shop of Mr. Hardwick, tailor, and several tons of coal and loads of fagots had been provided for the *auto da fe*. The excitement was so great, that in the course of the afternoon, a “notice” was issued, forbidding the exhibition, and signed by the following magistrates: Messrs. Pilkington, Gyles, Hallowell, Harford, and Henney. In the evening, the crowd became greatly excited, and on a cry being raised “to the Catholic Chapel,” that building was at once attacked, the iron railings in front of it torn up, and the building itself attempted to be set on fire. The mob, in their fury, broke open the premises of several Roman Catholic tradesmen, and took away their shutters and the books out of their shops to help to make the bonfire. It was with great difficulty the police succeeded in quelling the disturbance, and on the following day several hundred special constables were sworn in, to assist the force in preventing a recurrence of the outrage.

1850. December. The Cheltenham anti-papal address, with 4,000 signatures, presented to the Queen, by Sir George Grey, who stated in a letter to Mr. Grenville Berkeley, that “her Majesty was pleased to receive the same very graciously.”

1850. December. THE CHELTENHAM EFFIGY BURNING AND THE PARISIAN PRESS. SAINT HARDWICK, OF CHELTENHAM. A correspondent signing himself “Henry Cole,” and dating “Paris, Nov. 30,” gives us an amusing instance of the absurd errors fallen into by the Parisian journalists as to “the manners and customs of the English.” He says, “Your goings on in Cheltenham have furnished a copious theme for comment in the French papers, some of which show how error may undesignedly creep into a narrative of facts, and what little reliance there is to be placed in the accuracy of even contemporary history.” For instance he says, “All the journals (in commenting upon the disturbances in Cheltenham) assume that Mr. Hardwick is a Catholic; one simply relates how the mob smashed the windows of ‘a Catholic tailor.’ Another is scandalised that a Catholic cannot be allowed with impunity to have the effigy of his prime bishop in his shop; while the sympathy of the ‘Constitutionnel’ for Mr. Hardwick is awakened to such an extent that it would not much surprise me if an order should be sent to him to apparel the whole literary staff of that journal. But no! soap, shaving, and good broad cloth are not compatible with genius in this latitude. I know but little of papistical literature, but one cannot help seeing, here and there, prominently displayed in the shops, ‘accounts of the sufferings and persecutions of the Catholics in England,’ and a rather formidable array of names of those Englishmen who have joined ‘the noble army of martyrs.’ I have not the slightest doubt but that after the lapse of a few years Mr. Hardwick is destined to have his name enshrined in the muster roll of martyrs and confessors, and perhaps his descendants may some day be amused to find, in tracing back their pedigree, that their progenitor was a Saint Hardwick.” In reference to the note of Nov. 5, our correspondent adds, “It is hardly worth while for me to make any

serious remarks on the actual occurrences of that riotous day. Very good Protestantism was displayed, no doubt—but where was the Christianity? One thinks that the devil must have been hugely diverted. “Examiner,” Dec. 4

1851. January 21. In a letter to the “Examiner” of this date, Mr. James Boodle suggested that the two toll-gates then standing at Lansdown Castle should be removed beyond the entrance to Hatherly-lane, on the Gloucester-road. This, he said, would give to visitors an extra free drive of 10 or 12 miles round the most beautiful parts of the town. This suggestion was carried out a few months later; a clause being inserted in the New Turnpike Act for the removal of the pike to the spot indicated.

1851. February 3. Conclusion of arbitration, before Mr. G. E. Williams, as to certain charges brought against the builder and contractor of the new Union Workhouse. The result was that the ratepayers were called upon to pay £234 14s. 2d. as costs of the award, and £1,166 7s. 11d. the costs of the arbitration.

1851. February 11. Died, at her residence, 1, Belle Vue Buildings, aged 78, Miss Jane Cooke, one of the most liberal contributors to our local charities. By her will she left the following legacies:—To the Operative Jewish Converts’ Institution, £1,000; Episcopal Jews’ Chapel Abrahamic Society, £2,000; Trinitarian Bible Society, £2,000; Church Missionary Society, £5,000; British and Foreign Bible Society, £5,000; Malta Protestant College, £1,000; Edinburgh Bible Society, £1,000; Irish Society of London for the Distribution of Bibles, &c., £1,000. The remainder of her property she left towards the general purposes of the Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews.

1851. March 5. Thomas Pilkington, Esq., unanimously elected to the Chairmanship of the Cheltenham Bench of Magistrates.

1851. March. New south porch at the Parish Church completed.

1851. March 4. Amusing *emule* at Cheltenham College. The man who was privileged to sell pan-cakes to the students on Shrove Tuesday, not giving satisfaction in the quality of his edibles, a number of his customers invaded his stall and amused themselves for some time by pelting the vendor with his own pan-cakes. The affair was at one time likely to be brought before the magistrates, but it was ultimately arranged “out of court.”

1851. March. The legal proceedings in the case of “The Queen v. Theyer,” in reference to the Prestbury footpath case, amicably terminated on terms which secure for ever the right of the public over the footpaths in Prestbury Park.

1851. April 22. Proceedings having been lately taken against a number of Dissenters for non-payment of church-rates, at a vestry meeting, held this day, the Rev. F. Closs expressed the great grief which these dissensions caused him, and a recommendation to the Churchwardens to endeavour to raise the amount required by voluntary contributions was cordially adopted.

1851. The Cheltenham Improvement Bill in Committee of the House of Commons, Lord Chandos chairman. After several days hearing the opposition was narrowed to the single point of having the members of the Board, for the first year, nominated in the Bill, instead of being elected by the rate-payers. The promoters of the Bill ultimately gave way upon this point, and their decision was confirmed by a public meeting of the inhabitants.

1851. June. Application by the parties to a case in the Police Court, that the enquiry might be conducted with closed doors. The Magistrates, Messrs. Pilkington, Schonswar, and Skillicorne, refused to accede to the application, the Cheltenham Bench having always conducted all enquiries brought before them in the face of the public.

1851. June 20. At a vestry meeting this day, a final compromise was come to on the subject of Church-rates. The meeting was opened by the Rev. F. Closs, who occupied the chair, and who declared, that seeing the necessity there was for

a union between all denominations of Protestants, and seeing how much that union was retarded by dissensions on the subject of Church-rates, he had come forward of his own motion to propose a plan, whereby those dissensions might be put an end to. He would, therefore, propose to strike out of the Churchwardens estimate, and to raise by voluntary contribution, the whole of the expenses connected with the performance of divine worship, and call upon the rate-payers to provide only for the necessary repairs to the fabric of the church, the repair and keeping in order of the church-yard, the repair of the public clock, and other expenses of the same public nature. He declared that he made this proposition solely for the sake of restoring peace and good feeling in the parish; he pledged himself, if this offer was accepted, that the same should be done every year, and he said he longed heartily for the time when the legislature should put an end to church-rates altogether. [Mr. Pruen, Mr. Dartnell, Mr. Boodle, and Mr. Weaver, a member of the Society of Friends, expressed themselves in high terms of approval at Mr. Close's conduct. A rate of 1½d. in the pound was unanimously granted, and the proceedings terminated amid universal expressions of cordiality and good will. On the following Sunday Mr. Close preached a conciliatory sermon on the subject at the parish Church, the text being "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."]

1851. June 27. Died at Cheltenham, James Hastings, known in the neighbourhood as "Hunting Jim," and to the readers of *Bell's Life* as "The Flying Tailor." Many years ago, on Lord Fitzhardinge commencing to hunt the Cheltenham country, "Jim" became enamoured of the sport, and thenceforward was a regular *attache* to his lordship's establishment. He always went on foot, and invariably refused a "mount;" and with stick in one hand and the other hand in his trowser's pocket he would "top" the highest fence, and be in at the death after the hardest run. The "Examiner," in describing his career, says:—"It was a common occurrence with him to walk from Cheltenham to Berkeley, —25 miles—from thence to the meet, to follow the hounds all day, be in at the death, and walk back to Cheltenham the same night! Another of his feats was still more wonderful. The meet being at Broadway, "Jim" got up early in the morning, walked from Cheltenham to Broadway, 16 miles, thence to the cover side, 8 miles, ran with the hounds all day, and was in at the death, at Fairford, 12 miles, back to Broadway, 20 miles, and thence to Cheltenham, 16 miles; but as though this was not sufficient, 'Jim' again joined a badger hunting party to Queen and West Wood, at least 12 miles more, making the distance accomplished, between sunrise and sunrise, 84 miles!"

1851. July 17. The Town Bill thrown out by Lord Abinger's Committee of the House of Lords. The Bill was considered as practically unopposed; but at the last moment the Board of Heath sent an intimation to the committee that the Bill authorised the purchase of the sewers for £12,500 (or £5000 more than the Board considered them worth), and the committee in the most peremptory manner threw out the bill without entering into any explanation.

1851. August 12. At the assizes at Gloucester, the case "the Queen *versus* Pruen" was amicably settled,—the terms being that Mr. Pruen should resign the coronership in Mr. Lovegrove's favour, Mr. Lovegrove binding himself not to take any legal proceedings against the Regent-street voters, or any other parties mixed up in the proceedings.

1851. September 2. Fresh election for County Coroner at the Town Hall. Mr. Lovegrove was proposed by Lord Redesdale, seconded by Major Kennedy, and there being no other candidate proposed, the election was unanimous.

1851. September 14. Parish Church opened for the first time after extensive alterations and completion of new gallery over the north porch.

1851. July 8. Extraordinary accident on the Great Western Railway. An excursion train from Cheltenham to London was ascending the steep incline up the Stroud valley, and when in the middle of the Salperton tunnel, the coupling irons gave way, and a number of the carriages, freed from the first portion of the train, commenced running backwards down the incline. Fortunately, the mail train was ascending on the same line of rails, and the driver (Wilkinson) seeing the runaway carriages coming towards him, at once, with great presence of mind, commenced backing his own engine, and slowing descending, allowed the carriages to cushion safely against his engine, and so saved the excursion passengers from imminent peril. The "Examiner" of the following week suggested that some substantial acknowledgement should be made to Mr. Wilkinson, and the hint being taken, a subscription was entered into, and the proceeds, about £20, was invested in a handsome gold watch, which was presented to him as a slight memento of the public appreciation of his coolness and intrepidity in a moment of great danger.

1851. October 1. Hurricane in Cheltenham. On Wednesday, this neighbourhood was visited by a storm of wind, which, at one time, was more severe than any we have witnessed here for many years. The avenue at the Old Wells presented the appearance of a perfect wreck, the space between the rows of trees being almost blocked up with the fallen branches, while the pleasure grounds were completely strewn with smaller fragments. During the same storm, one of the large boughs of Maud's Elm was blown down, a chimney at the Gas-works was blown through the roof of the building, and the lead at the Railway Station stripped off like so much brown paper. The storm was, however, very partial, as is proved by the fact that while some of the trees in Jessop's gardens were completely stripped of their fruit, others which stood next to them escaped uninjured; in one case, the whole of the fruit on one side of a tree was swept away, while that growing on the other side was untouched. This hurricane appears to have been a part of the same storm which has strewn our sea board with wrecks, and caused the loss of a great many lives. "Examiner," Oct. 8.

1851. October 2. Death of Dr. Baron, M.D., F.R.S., the intimate friend and biographer of Jenner, aged 66.

1851. October. Resignation of Mr. J. S. Cox, clerk to the old commissioners, and election of Mr. Gwinnett to the office. On the 22nd, a public meeting decided, that in an application to parliament next session, the names of the first commissioners should be nominated in the bill.

1851. October 23. Lecture on "Bloomerism," at the Assembly Rooms. The lecturer, a Mrs. Warriner, announced her intention of appealing "to the wives, mothers, and daughters of England, in favour of Bloomerism, or modern dress reform." She appeared on the platform in full Bloomer costume, but so unpopular was the spectacle that it was received with jeers and titters, and the majority of the audience left the room.

1851. November 13. Sudden death of Mr. Thomas Haines, builder, &c., of Southam Villa.

1851. November 17. Carriage accident to Mrs. Erskine, of Forthampton. The carriage was overturned in the High Street, but the lady was unhurt. The accident is worth recording, for the extraordinary career of the runaway horse, whose course, with the shafts dangling behind him, is thus described.—"The horse continued to plunge until he had broken the carriage in pieces, and he then darted off along Clarence-street with the shafts and fore wheels dangling behind him. On arriving at the end of Clarence-street, he turned into the Promenade, where he charged at full gallop the handsome plate glass front of Debenham and Freebody, one of the large panes of which was shattered into a thousand fragments. He then crossed the Promenade on to the pavement on the opposite side,

along which he proceeded as far as Imperial-square, and passing along the bottom of the square and down Rodney-terrace, he again reached the High-street, down which he went at the same fearful pace. On arriving at the corner of Clarence street where he originally started from, he took the narrow passage leading to the Eight Bells; then along the lane by the churchyard wall, and through the arch way by the "Examiner" Office, again emerging into Imperial-circus. Here he made a second dash at the shop of Messrs. Debenham, but being headed, turned to the right down the Colonnade and again into the High-street. This time he took the turn up the street, towards the Plough Hotel, still showing the same partiality to the pavement, along which he galloped, passing under the portico of the George Hotel, and under the window blinds of several of the shops, until he reached the more open part of the street, near the Belle Vue Hotel, where he was captured, without having received any serious injury."

1851. December 9. Enquiry at the Plough Hotel into the state of mind of J. G. Beavan, Esq., one of the magistrates for this district. The jury (of which Mr. Tarrt was foreman), decided, after a patient investigation, that the unfortunate gentleman had been of unsound mind since the 1st day of June, 1851.

1851. Dec. 24. The Cheltenham "Examiner" was enlarged to-day to the size of the London *Times*; the first eight-paged paper which appeared in Cheltenham.

1851. In the course of this year, the Poor Law Commissioners abolished the ancient tythings, and divided the town into Wards which have since been adopted for parochial and municipal purposes. The Wards, which are five in number, are bounded as follows: *East Ward*,—North side of High-street, from the London-road to Pittville-street, along Pittville-street and the Evesham-road, and comprising all property to the North and North-East of these lines, including the whole of Pittville. *North Ward*,—North-West sides of Pittville-street and Evesham-road, and North side of the High-street from Pittville-street to the boundaries of the parish in the Tewkesbury-road. *West Ward*,—South side of the High-street from Tewkesbury-road to St. George's-place, West side of St. George's-place, St. George's-parade, up Bayshill to Queen's-parade, thence to Old Well lane and Land-down or new Gloucester-road, along the last named road and old Gloucester-road. *Middle Ward*,—South side of the High-street from St. George's-place to Rodney-terrace, along Rodney-terrace and Trafalgar lane to Montpellier Spa-buildings, along Montpellier-parade and Montpellier-terrace to Suffolk-parade, and thence along Great Norwood-street to the boundaries of the parish. *South Ward*,—South side of the High-street from Rodney-terrace to the boundaries of the parish in the London-road, and the district, South and East of the boundaries of the Middle Ward.

1852. January 7. Mr. Lingwood published, in the "Examiner," a complete copy of a Bill, proposed by him, for the appointment of a stipendiary magistrate for the Borough.

1852. Annual treat to the scholars of the Cheltenham Old Charity School. A few years ago this school, with a very few scholars, was held in a miserable loft over the north porch of the Parish Church. Within the last few months the loft had been formed into a gallery for the accommodation of worshippers, and the school, removed to new and commodious buildings, had increased to 150 scholars.

1852. January 9. Loss of the *Amazon*, West India steamer. She left Southampton with 161 souls on board, and when off the Scilly Islands was discovered to be on fire. Forty-six persons saved themselves in the boats, but the remaining 115 were either drowned or burned. Among the sufferers was Mr. Rycroft Best, a gentleman long residing in Cheltenham and who was making a last visit to the West Indies to dispose of his property. He was accompanied by

an old and faithful servant, named Chute, who shared his master's fate. Mrs. Best and her family, and poor Chute's wife and three children, were in Cheltenham when the news of the catastrophe arrived, and their bereavement called forth an universal expression of sorrow and sympathy.

1852. January 14. First appearance in the "Examiner" of the series of papers known as "Pulpit Sketches" by "The Church Goer," which, while they continued, obtained extraordinary popularity.

1852. January 16. Dreadful accident to Master Findon, only son of Mr. Findon, of Præstbury. Deceased, who was only 15 years of age, was following the hounds, and on taking a fence his horse swerved and threw him on to some sharp stakes in the hedge, by which he received such serious injuries as to cause his death.

1852. January 24. Meeting at Hale's Music-room to form a Cheltenham company of "Volunteers," in view of the aggressive policy of Louis Napoleon. Mr. Hallewell, M.P., took the chair.

1852. January 29. Sir Cornwallis Ricketts, Bart., married to Lady Caroline Augusta Pelham, sister of the Duke of Newcastle.

1852. February. J. Webster, Esq., of Hatherley Court, C. J. Barnett, Esq., and Capt. Frobisher, appointed magistrates by the Lord Chancellor.

1852. February. E. R. Humphreys, Esq., appointed Head Master of the Grammar School by the patrons, the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi College.

1852. February 17. Bill for the appointment of a Stipendiary Magistrate thrown out in the House of Commons. Its rejection was moved by Mr. Grenville Berkeley and seconded by Mr. Hallewell.

1852. March. Cheltenham Town Bill passed through Committee of the Commons. A claim by Mr. G. Russell, Mr. Parsonage, Mr. W. L. Bain, and other officers of the old Commissioners, for compensation in losing their appointments, was negatived by the Committee.

1852. April 23. Presentation to Earl Fitzhardinge at a public dinner, at the Plough Hotel, in recognition of his liberality in hunting the Cheltenham country.

1852. May 1. Grammar School publicly re-opened under revised scheme sanctioned by the Court of Chancery. E. R. Humphreys, L.L.D., head master, H. M. Jeffery, M.A., second master.

1852. May 12. Town Bill passed through Committee of the House of Lords.

1852. May 12. The "Examiner" of this date states that "there is not a single able-bodied pauper, male or female, in the Cheltenham Workhouse, although the Union comprises Cheltenham with its 40,000 inhabitants, and 13 agricultural parishes. The master of the workhouse has for some time been obliged to employ labourers at the ordinary wages, to do the necessary work about the house and grounds, and which work, under the good old system of protection, was invariably done by the able-bodied paupers. The present inmates of the house are 93 old and infirm men; 105 old and infirm women, and 6 women with illegitimate children. The remainder being children, and adults suffering from accident or sickness." It appeared from the auditor's report that the expenditure for the last half-year was less by £1,256 10s. 6d. than that for the corresponding half of the year preceding.

1852. May 26. Died, at Bideford, in his 75th year, Dr. Boisragon, who practised as a physician in Cheltenham for 40 years. After retiring from the arduous duties of his profession he resided for some years in Paris, and was on terms of intimacy with King Louis Philippe until the dethronement and flight of that monarch at the Revolution of 1848.

1852. June 3. First Monster Poultry Show at Royal Old Wells, projected by Jessop Brothers.

1852. June 7. First Meeting of Town Commissioners under the powers of the New Improvement Act, which received the Royal Assent on May 29th previous. The second meeting was held June 14th, when Mr. G. E. Williams was elected clerk.

1852. June 8. Congregational Church, Winchcomb Street, opened with sermons by the Rev. T. Raffles and Rev. J. Harris. There was a public dinner at one o'clock and a tea party at four, both at the Queen's Hotel.

1852. June 17. At public auction, three acres and three-quarters of land on Bayshill, at the back of Christ Church, sold for £840.

1852. June 19. The Queen's Hotel sold at auction to Mr. W. S. Davis, the present proprietor, for £8,400.

1852. "Our obituary this week contains the name of Mr. Benjamin Thomas, auctioneer, whose death occurred on Wednesday last, after a few days' illness. Mr. Thomas was a man universally respected, his conduct during the many years that he carried on business in Cheltenham being marked by undeviating integrity. The intelligence of his death caused a profound feeling of regret among all classes of his fellow-townsmen. It is remarkable how many persons occupying a somewhat prominent position in the town have been swept off by the hand of death within a very few days. The names of Mr. Robinson, tailor, Mr. Hasleton, builder, and Mr. Thackwell, have already been recorded in our obituary notices; and we have now the painful duty of recording the death of E. L. Mortimer, Esq., of Grosvenor Place, which took place on Saturday, and of Mr. William Harrison, tallow-chandler, which occurred on Monday last. Both were old inhabitants of Cheltenham, and both were highly respected in the sphere of life in which they moved.—"Examiner," July 7.

1852. July 6. "Our obituary this week announces the death of Mrs. Captain Grey, of No. 2, Montpelier Parade, at the advanced age of 78. The deceased lady was the widow of the late Capt. Grey, who as one of the most honest, and eloquent, and consistent of our local politicians of his day, has left a memory behind him, which will be long endeared to the recollection of the people of Cheltenham.—"Examiner," July 14.

1852. July 18. Terrific thunder storm passed over Cheltenham. The cottage of a man named Taylor, at Rowanfield, was struck by the lightning, and became in a moment a heap of ruins. The escape of the inmates was almost miraculous; Taylor was sitting up in bed, and his wife was kneeling by the bedside praying. The man was struck down senseless, and the lightning passed between his wife's legs as she was kneeling, scorching the inside of both thighs, and severely burning one foot as far as the ankle. On recovering consciousness, Taylor found the cottage in ruins. Of five children who were sleeping in a room over head one was burned quite black about the face and eyes, with blood running from the mouth and ears; two other children were insensible, and the whole were found partially buried under the fallen rubbish. On examining the premises the chimney was found knocked down, the slates scattered from the roof in every direction, the windows forced inwards into the rooms, the chains of the clock broken into numerous pieces and the fragments welded together by the intense heat, the flooring boards torn up and splintered, the grates broken to pieces, every pane of glass shattered, and in fact the cottage rendered a complete wreck. The injured children were removed to the Hospital, where they ultimately recovered, and a subscription was set on foot for reimbursing Taylor for the loss he had sustained.

1852. August 30. The Queen again "passed by" Cheltenham on her journey from Osborne to Scotland.

1852. August. The following parties in Cheltenham received medals from the Council of the Great Exhibition: Mr. J. Blizard, T. Beale Browne, Esq., Mrs. Lawrence, Messrs. Martin, Baskett, and Martin, Bertram Mitford, Esq., Mr. T. J. Pike, Mr. Radford, Messrs. Shirer and Co., Mr. A. Whitcombe, Mr. P. H. F. King, and Mr. S. Wright.

1852. September. The Rev. F. Close, having made himself personally liable for the sum of £80, for repairs to the organ at the Parish Church; a meeting of Dissenters was held at the Old Wells Music Hall, to raise the amount by subscription, as a graceful acknowledgment of the rev. gentleman's conciliatory conduct in the abandonment of church rates. Dr. Moreton Brown accepted the office of treasurer to the subscription, and Messrs. S. Onley and T. Williams jun., were associated with him on the committee. The money was raised—the subscription list comprising the names of a considerable number of the leading Dissenters of the town.

1852. September 14. Death of the Duke of Wellington. The news of the sad event was received in Cheltenham with every demonstration of unfeigned sorrow. On the following Sunday, the ministers, both church and dissent, improved the occasion by special addresses to their several congregations.

1852. October 2. First visit of the Gloucestershire Yeomanry Hussars on eight days' permanent duty. The corps, to the number of 45, were reviewed in Charlton Park, in the presence of an immense concourse of spectators.

1852. October 13. Mr. Lingwood published a suggestion in the "Examiner" that a fund should be raised in commemoration of the Duke of Wellington; and applied in the erection of a new Grammar School for Cheltenham. The necessity for such a building was shown by the fact that the school was quite full, and with fifty candidates awaiting admission.

1852. October. The Rev. T. P. Boulton, senior curate of the Parish Church, appointed to the office of Theological Tutor of Cheltenham College.

1852. October 19. Public meeting at the Town Hall, to hear the details of a new line to London, since known as "Mr. Fowler's line." The line was to leave the Midland main line at Swindon, to have a through station at Oxford-parade or Hale's-road, and to have its London terminus at the South-Western Station at Waterloo-bridge. Resolutions were unanimously passed in favour of the scheme, the feeling in Cheltenham, as expressed by one of the speakers being, that it was "now or never."

1852. October 27. Letter in the "Examiner" from Mr. Close suggesting that the proposed "Wellington memorial" should take the form of scholarships open alike to the pupils of the College and Grammar School.

1852. October. Resolution come to by the Turnpike Trust to remove the turnpike heretofore standing at Marle Hill to beyond the Swindon-lane on the Evesham-road. This resolution was afterwards carried into effect, thus greatly enlarging the extent of free rides open to our residents and visitors. It is curious to contrast the present freedom from turnpikes around the town with the state of things which existed within the last thirty or forty years, and within the memory of many old inhabitants. At that time, one turnpike "stopped the way" at the upper end of the High Street, this side of Hale's Road; another interposed its barrier at the bottom of the street, at the corner now occupied by Mr. Dobell's wine vaults; while a third was planted in the very centre of the town, at the end of New Street, opposite the present Great Western coal wharves. At that time, the bridge over the Chelt at Perry's Mill was not built, but foot passengers had to find their way across on a precarious plank, which was often washed away by the stream, while the wheel traffic had to pass through the bed of the river itself.

1852. October 28. At a preliminary meeting attended by the churchwardens, several magistrates, and a number of the principal inhabitants, Mr. Lingwood's



scheme for a Wellington testimonial in the shape of a new Grammar School, was discussed and adopted.

1852. November 9. Four a.m. A shock of earthquake distinctly felt in various parts of Cheltenham.

1852. November 18. Public funeral of the Duke of Wellington. Business in Cheltenham was suspended throughout the day. The funeral sermon by the Rev. F. Close was reprinted by subscription at the office of the "Examiner," and a copy, appropriately bound, presented to the Queen, who returned a gracious letter of acknowledgment. The Duchess Dowager of Beaufort, Sir W. Codrington, Bart., Mrs. Close, and others subscribed for copies of the "Queen's Edition," bound in a similar style to that presented to her Majesty. On the day of the funeral the whole of the low lying lands in this part of the country were flooded. Traffic on the Great Western and Midland railways was impeded for several hours, and at Gloucester boats were employed going about the streets supplying food, tea, soup, &c., to the poor creatures whose houses were flooded, the articles being conveyed to them through their bedroom windows.

1852. December 9. Public meeting at the Town Hall, to establish a Local School of Art and Design, addressed by the Right Hon. Lord Ward and others.

1852. December 26. Severe storm, during which windows were blown in and chimneys blown down in every direction. In Suffolk Lawn one of the large ornamental trees was blown down, and another at Dr. Bernard's, Cambray, shared the same fate. A long range of stabling in the Royal Hotel yard was destroyed; and in the Bath Road a poor woman was blown completely off her feet, and hurled with considerable violence into the middle of the road.

1853. January. Mr. George Lewis, sculptor, appointed to the office of parish sexton. There were 18 or 20 candidates, but the Incumbent ascertaining the appointment vested in him, and not with the ratepayers, selected Mr. Lewis, after consultation with his churchwardens.

1853. January 13. Mysterious robbery at Mr. Davisons's, jeweller, corner of Clarence-street. The thieves took 160 rings, several gold watches, and other property to the value of between £200 and £300. The perpetrators of the robbery escaped detection.

1853. January 25. At a meeting of the Town Commissioners, it was stated that the costs in obtaining the Act of Parliament were £4,600 instead of £3,000, as originally stated. Of this sum, the solicitors' bills were about £1,500; parliamentary agents, £1,000; two surveyors, £400 each; Mr. Gael's bill, £340; and the remainder in smaller miscellaneous sums. The accounts were referred to a committee of the commissioners for friendly adjustment.

1853. February. A curious incident is recorded this month—the loss of a roll of bank notes for £500 in the High-street, and their fortunate restoration by a labouring man, who picked them up. It will be seen that the roll of notes was found under somewhat peculiar circumstances; the finder, a labouring man, seeing a dirty roll of paper lying on the ground, kicked it along with his foot as worthless, and afterwards, without any idea of its value, picked it up and put it into his pocket. He went to work and thought no more about it, until, at tea time, his father asking him for a piece of paper, he pulled the roll of dirty paper out of his pocket, and was in the act of tearing a piece of one of the notes, when his eye luckily caught the figure of £5. He then discovered the value of the roll of crumpled paper, and immediately took it to the crier; and on proceeding to the Bank was rewarded with a £10 note for his honesty.

1853. February 25. Died, Lieut.-General Sir William Sandys Whish, an Indian officer, long resident in Cheltenham, and for many years a member of the Cheltenham Board of Commissioners.

1853. February 21. Public meeting of the Cheltenham Copyholders, to

obtain an abolition of the modern fees charged by the Manorial officers. The chair was taken by Sir William Russell, Bart., M.P., Lord of the Manor of Charlton. In April, the case of Treherne and another *versus* Gardner and another, involving the complaints of the Cheltenham Copyholders, was tried at Gloucester assizes. The trial resulted in a special case being drawn up for the decision of the court above. The decision was given in the Superior Court, in February, 1856, and we here append the sums sought to be charged by modern custom, and the sums decided as legal in accordance with ancient practice:—

	Sums attempted to be charged.			Sums which ought to have been charged.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Proclamation ... ..	0	3	0	0	3	0
Court fees on surrender to the use of Will ... ..	2	16	10	0	9	8
Excess of fees on first admission ... ..	0	6	8	0	0	0
Court fees on second admission ... ..	3	3	6	1	7	0
Homage and Crier ... ..	0	4	6	0	0	0
Stamp and Parchment ... ..	1	5	0	1	2	0
Court fees on fourth admission ... ..	3	3	6	1	7	0
Stamp and Parchment ... ..	1	5	0	1	2	0
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	£17	1	0	£7	19	8

It will thus be seen that where the Manor officers made charges amounting to £17 1s. 0d., the Court decided that, according to old custom, they were only entitled to £7 19s. 8d.; and of this £3 6s. were for stamps and parchments. This important trial has settled the question of local manorial fees once and for ever. The Cheltenham "Examiner" of February 6, 1856, in publishing the short-hand writer's notes of the judgment, comments on the observations of Lord Chief Justice Campbell, who at the very outset of his judgment spoke of the fees of which the Copyholders complain, in the following terms of condemnation:—"I would observe that we are by no means, by anything we are about to decide, to be supposed to sanction the practices which have prevailed in this Manor. I am sorry to say that this seems to me to be an instance of manors being kept up for the purpose that traffic may be made in fees, which are very oppressive to the copyholders." Such was Lord Campbell's opinion of the proceedings prevailing in the Manor of Cheltenham—that those practices were kept up for the purpose of "trafficking in fees,"—the very root and foundation of the grievance which the associated Copyholders allege against them. But farther on the learned Chief Justice is still more explicit; he speaks of the payments demanded as being "illegal," as "exactod without just cause," as "rank," and "monstrously exorbitant."

1853. April 5. Great early closing meeting at the Old Wells. Among the speakers were—the Revs. F. Close, A. M. Brown, Smith, Rawlinson, Bellairs, and Boulton; and Dr. Wright, Messrs. Humphris, Monro, Scougill, and G. E. Williams.

1853. April 5. Grand steeple chases at Prestbury Park. So great was the influx of visitors that the "Examiner" of the following day, says: "So full is Cheltenham at the present moment, that the influx of our steeple-chase visitors has put us to some such inconveniences as we read of in Australia. Yesterday, he respected proprietor of 'The Plough' might be seen wending his way down the Promenade almost *beseeking* the inhabitants to spare him 'beds' for his accumulating arrivals. His own immense establishment being full, every bed he

could procure in the neighbourhood being also "engaged," and now the morning's post had brought him "bespeaks" from fresh visitors, for whom he was unable to procure accommodation!"

1853. April. Publication at the "Examiner" Office of copy of the faculty, granted by the Bishop's Court, in 1794, and under which, pews in Cheltenham Parish Church are held as private property.

1853. April. A series of twenty-three views of the attractions of Cheltenham presented to the Queen, of which her Majesty was graciously pleased to express her approval.

1853. May 24. Sale of Prestbury Park and other property by auction, the Prestbury Park estate fetched £19,600, the Hunting Butts Farm £5,850, and the sale altogether realised nearly £24,000.

1853. June 2. Sale of materials of Old Clarence Hotel. This building stood on the spot now occupied by the Temporary Church, and was at one time the fashionable hotel of Cheltenham. The present police offices also formed one wing of the building.

1853. June 2. The railway bill for a line from Cheltenham to Oxford (Fowler's line), thrown out in committee of the House of Commons.

1853. July 1. "Garrotte" robbery in Cheltenham. A gentleman named Raymond, residing in Lyppiatt-terrace, was throttled under the trees near the house of Lord de Saumarez, and while in a state of insensibility, his watch, purse, and umbrella were stolen from him. The umbrella was picked up next morning near the Imperial Gardens, but the watch and purse were not recovered.

1853. July 10. Sunday excursion train from London to Cheltenham. The Rev. F. Close, in his evening sermon, gave it as his opinion that if the day of judgment had come suddenly upon the Sabbath breakers who came down by the train, the responsibility would rest upon those who induced them to commit the sin,—upon the railway directors, who bribed them to break God's commandments, by running these trains at lower fares on the Sabbath day.

1853. July 12. Great flower show of all nations, at Pittville Spa.

1853. July 18. Sudden death of Major Justinian Nutt, a well known and respected officer of this town, at his residence, 15, Lansdown Crescent.

1853. August. A fellow named Julius Henry Gilegan, but who gave himself out as a "prophet," and was guilty of the most blasphemous and revolting conduct, caused great disturbance in the town. He was ultimately taken in hand by the police and committed to Gloucester for six months, in default of sureties for his good behaviour.

1853. August 10. The "Examiner" inaugurates the remission of the advertisement and supplement duties, by publishing an unstamped supplement of twelve columns.

1853. August 15. The commissioners at a special meeting, affix the common seal to a mortgage bond for the loan of £11,000, for the execution of their system of sewers.

1853. August 15. Death of the Rev. F. W. Robertson, of Brighton, son of Capt. Robertson, B.A., of this town, and formerly curate of Christ Church, Cheltenham. Such was the respect in which deceased was held at Brighton, that his remains were accorded a public funeral, and a large sum was raised for the erection of a monument to his memory. Lady Noel Byron headed the subscription list for this object with the munificent donation of £300. It is a melancholy incident in connection with the deceased, that his death took place on the sixth anniversary of his first appearance as Incumbent in the pulpit of Trinity Chapel, Brighton. Not only was Mr. Robertson greatly endeared to the members of his own large congregation, but the earnestness and eloquence of his ministry, his high personal character, and his scholastic and literary attainments,

gave him a celebrity which extended far beyond the immediate sphere of his ministerial labours. In proof of this, we need only mention that a memoir of his life and his published sermons have gone, since his death, through several editions, that his bust in marble has been placed in the Bodleian Library, and that a memorial window has been erected by public subscription at Oxford, in the subscription lists to which are the names of five bishops, and men of eminence and every shade of theological views, both within and without the immediate pale of the Established Church.

1853. August. The Marquis of Breadalbane, Lord Chamberlain to her Majesty's Household, on a visit to Cheltenham. The noble Marquis drunk the waters, and inscribed his name in the visitors' book at the Royal Old Wells.

1853. August 29. Death of Sir Charles Napier, at the Oaklands, near Portsmouth, aged 71.

1853. September. Attempts made to stop up the footpath leading from Prestbury Park to Swindon, across the Hunting Butts farm. The attempt was successfully resisted.

1853. October 16. On Sunday, the 14th, the Rev. F. Close preached in the parish church (first time since his return to Cheltenham) to crowded congregations. In the evening, especially, every part of the church was crowded by anxious listeners. The throng extended into the porch at each of the principal entrances, and many, who could not obtain even standing room, were obliged, at last, to go away disappointed. "Examiner," Oct. 19th.

1853. November 5. Appointment of Mr. F. T. Griffiths to the clerkship of the Cheltenham Bench, vacant by the resignation of Mr. G. E. Williams, now clerk to the commissioners. The magistrates, in accepting Mr. Williams's resignation, unanimously passed the following resolution—"That the magistrates have received Mr. Williams's resignation with much regret, and consider that their best thanks are due to him for the very able and efficient manner in which he has at all times advised them."

1853. November 14. Fatal accident to Mr. Croome, a gentleman of large property, residing at Painswick Lawn. Deceased was driving along Montpellier, when he was thrown out of his gig, and had his skull so badly fractured that he died in a few hours.

1853. November 17. Complimentary dinner to Mr. W. S. Davis on the re-opening of the Queen's Hotel; the Hon. Craven Berkeley, M.P., in the chair.

1853. December 6. Action in the County Court, by Mr. George Micklewright, against Dr. Humphreys, head master of the Grammar School, for assault, in severely flogging plaintiff's son, a pupil in the school. The case created great excitement, and after a hearing of eight hours' duration, the court gave judgment for the plaintiff, with damages, four guineas. An address of condolence was presented to Dr. Humphreys on the occasion, signed by the minister and churchwardens, (ex-officio visitors), Messrs. Lingwood, Engall, Hale, D. J. Humphreys, Wells, Harper, and Goding (members of the Grammar School Committee), and, nearly 300 heads of families, most of whom had children in the school. The Patrons of the school, the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi College also published a document, exonerating the head master from blame in the transaction.

1854. Mr. Ballinger, keeper to Lord Northwick, though in the 75th year of his age, reported during the season to have shot through the head 78 deer at 79 shots.

1854. January 12. East Gloucestershire Election. Beach, 3,364; Holland 2,343. In the Cheltenham district the numbers were—Beach, 93; Holland, 408.

1854. February 3. Sudden death of B. Leicester, Esq., at the Batchelor's Ball, Assembly Rooms.

February 13. Lord John Russell brought in a new Reform Bill, giving the Western Division and Bristol each three members; Gloucester, Stroud, and the Eastern Division, two each; and Cheltenham, Cirencester, and Tewkesbury, one member each. The bill was withdrawn in March following.

1854. April 5. Cheltenham Water Works Bill, for taking water from the river Colne, after six days' enquiry, was thrown out in committee of the House of Commons.

1854. April 10. Admiral Lowe died suddenly at his residence, 15, Lansdown Parade. On the same day, Mr. Charles Paul, architect, died, after a very brief illness, at his residence, "The Parsonage," Charlton Kings.

1854. April 27. Day of national humiliation for the disasters in the Russian war. Sermons were preached in all the churches and chapels, at which collections were made for the wives and families of our soldiers and sailors, yielding a total of £830 13s. 3d.

1854. April. Lieutenant F. A. Close, whose intrepid conduct at Bomarsund gained him honourable mention in the Admiral's despatches, promoted to the rank of Commander for his services on that occasion.

1854. June 1. The Cheltenham Great Exhibition opened, at the Royal Old Wells. The inaugural address was delivered by the Rev. Canon Boyd. The contents of the Exhibition was of a most varied character, and for a non-manufacturing town, was perhaps the best provincial collection formed. It was visited by 40,000 persons, besides ticket holders for the season, which made the entire number 65,000, and about 4,500 school children. It continued open until July 12th, following. The building included 22,000 feet of glazed sash lights, 33,000 feet of spruce batten, 8,000 feet of rafters, and 12,000 feet of flooring. The interior was in part covered with 500 yards of green baize, 3,000 yards of calico, and 2,000 yards of calico. The shareholders' subscription amounted to £980, the season tickets to £782 14s. 3d., and the amount taken at the doors from strangers, £1,718 3s. 7d., which, added to £50 received for a refreshment saloon, made the total sum of £3,537 17s. 10d.

1854. August. Town Commissioners voted to borrow £1,800 for making a new street from the High Street into the Bath Road.

1854. August. First pillar letter boxes erected at Cheltenham.

1854. September. Appearance of cholera at Gloucester. Cheltenham was favoured again to escape—not a single case occurring in the town during the visitation.

1854. September 8. A fire occurred at Gloucester Cathedral. It was fortunately discovered, and extinguished without serious damage.

1854. September 28. Great fire at Shackleford's coach factory. Among the property destroyed were the tools of the workmen, valued at £150. A public subscription was raised to reimburse the men; the collection by Mr. Russell amounting to £125. Mr. Russell had also collected a handsome sum in aid of the workmen of Mr. John Alder, who also lost their tools in a similar manner. For his services on that occasion, Mr. Alder's workmen presented him with a handsome writing desk.

1854. October 1. Day of national thanksgiving for the abundant harvest—special services at the churches and chapels. During the services, the telegrams announced the battle of Alma, and reported fall of Sebastopol. The news was conveyed to the Rev. F. Close in the pulpit of the Parish Church, and by him communicated to the congregation as an additional cause for national thanksgiving.

1854. October 2. Dr. Courtland Shaw and J. Fortnum, Esq., surgeon, two among the most eminent of our local practitioners, died within a few hours of each other this day.

1854. October 5. Despatches received at the "Examiner" office contradicting the reported fall of Sebastopol, and stating the British loss at the battle of the Alma to be 96 officers, 114 sergeants, 23 drummers, and 1,894 rank and file. The publication of this despatch (the news not being confirmed in the *Times*) created such a painful feeling throughout the town that it was obliged to be withdrawn. On the same evening the news was confirmed in an extraordinary supplement of the *London Gazette*.

1854. October 11. Died, at Sudeley Castle, W. Dent, Esq., aged 70 years.

1854. October 19. Lord Dunalley, of Dunalley Lodge, Cheltenham, died at his seat, Kelboy, co. Tipperary, aged 79.

1854. October 23. Meeting at the Assembly Rooms in aid of the Patriotic Fund for assisting the wives and families of the victims of the Russian war. Sir Wm. Russell, Mr. J. A. Gardner, Rev. J. Browne, Rev. A. Boyd, Rev. F. D. Gilby, Admiral Lloyd, Capt. Close and others took part in the proceedings. The Cheltenham contributions to the fund amounted to nearly £2,600.

1854. November 7. Consecration of St. Luke's Church, by the Bishop of the Diocese; the sermon by the Rev. F. Close. The cost of the building was about £5,000. Amongst the chief contributors were the Misses Greswolde, who manificently contributed £400, Mrs. Beauchamp £300, Miss Yerbury £200, the College Proprietary £200, Lord Northwick £100, G. Harvey, Esq., £100, C. Morris, Esq., £100, S. Anderson, Esq., £50, Lord de Saumarez £45.

1854. November 18. J. Garland Cragoe, Esq., died suddenly at his residence, 1, Pittville Villas, aged 44.

1854. November 22. Death of Sir Michael Hicks Beach, the newly elected M.P. for the Eastern Division, aged 47. Mr. R. S. Holford was elected in his stead, December 19, without opposition.

1854. November 22. The "Examiner" states that the fossil remains of a gigantic ox and the lower jawbone of a human being, with the teeth firmly fixed and showing but slight signs of decay, were found in a deposit of mud in the deepest part of the sewer works in the Bath Road.

1854. December. The Entente Cordiale.—Lieutenant Lestraillie and several members of his party of French pioneers paid a visit to Cheltenham. They were dressed in the handsome uniform of their corps, and were, during their short visit, "the observed of all observers." "Examiner," Dec. 20.

1854. December. Boxes of books, provisions, &c., forwarded from Cheltenham for the British soldiers in the Crimea. "My dear Mr. Close. I had the satisfaction to-day of seeing your fifteen cases safely embarked on board the Clyde steamer. She is to go straight to Balaclava with huts and supplies for the army and hospital. \* \* \* Supplies are going out from all quarters, and, besides what are shipped daily from the dockyard, Mr. Davies told me he shipped, yesterday, 1,200 large packages, all sent to him from private sources. R. T. Gambier, Capt. R.N."

1854. The Russian war.—The last six months of this year, and the whole of 1855, were rendered memorable in Cheltenham in an especial manner by the events of the Russian war, which so peculiarly affected the great number of families of officers residing in the town. The battle of Alma was fought on the 20th of September, 1854, and the battle of Inkerman on the 5th of November following; and at both these engagements, as well as in the fatal cavalry charge at Balaclava on the 25th of October, a number of names well known in Cheltenham were among the lists of killed and wounded. During the war "bulletins" of the daily telegraphic dispatches were regularly issued at the office of the "Examiner," and the scenes which frequently took place at the office of that paper were of the most painful description. After a great battle the open space in Imperial Circus would be crowded by wives and children and relatives of

officers serving abroad, waiting for the bulletins of which some times as many as from 2,000 to 3,000 would be sold in the course of a few hours. From these fatal documents ladies would first hear of the death or mutilation of their husbands, children of their fathers', parents' of their sons', and others of their relatives or friends. The town during this eventful period wore almost an aspect of general mourning. At the principal churches a large portion of the congregation were in mourning, and eloquent were the exhortations to resignation under sorrow addressed from the pulpits to the bereaved mourners. A writer in the "Examiner," of January 3rd, 1855, thus heralds in the new year of sorrow and bereavement:—

The year goes out—adown long hallow'd aisles,  
The sculptors work—Ha! what device is that?  
A marble fame-wreath clasps a shivered sabre;  
Here a mute urn; a severed pillar there,  
And on its base is "F. U. I. T."—Yet once more  
I gaze,—it is a simple quiet scroll  
And only saith, "HE FELL AT INKERMANN  
"AND HIS YOUNG BROTHER TOOK THE PEST AT VARNA.  
"SHE WHO WRITES THIS, SHE WAS A MOTHER ONCE!"

1855. January. Large number of huts for the French army in the Crimea, manufactured by Messrs. Eassie, of Gloucester.

1855: January. Sand model of Sebastopol, by the pupils of the College, opening during the whole of the month. It was inspected daily by large numbers of persons interested in the progress of the war. The "Examiner" says—"Capt. Robertson, R.A., has kindly undertaken the task of explaining the model and fortifications, and gives his hearers a brief epitome of the campaign from the landing of the expedition, through the battle of Alma, the flank march across the Belbec to Balaklava, and the opening and progress of the siege operations—the combined attack of the 17th October—the capture of the redoubts—the fatal Cavalry charge on the 26th—and finally, the great, but dear-bought victory of Inkermann, on the 5th of November. Illustrated as his narrative is by a bird's-eye view of the theatre of operations, it becomes doubly interesting, and we do not wonder that so many avail themselves of the kindness of the college authorities, to attend his practical and instructive lectures."

1855. Cheltenham men in the Crimea. The "Examiner" of January 17, says—"The terrible realities of the war have again been brought painfully under our notice during the past week in Cheltenham. One or two officers wounded at the battle of Alma, have sufficiently recovered to return home to their families here, and may be seen occasionally in the streets supported by crutches, or leaning on the arm of a relative. By the last official advices, we also learn the melancholy intelligence of the death of a very promising young officer, Major Moller, of the 50th Regiment. Major Moller, whose letters to his friends at home have continued—through all the hardships of the campaign—to be written in a cheering and hopeful tone, was cut off in a sortie of the enemy on the night of the 20th ult. He died a soldier's death. Colonel Waddy, the commanding officer of the regiment, in a letter to his friends at home, says, 'Poor Moller fell mortally wounded while gallantly cheering on his men,' in the trenches before Sebastopol. This is, indeed, one of the painful incidents of war. The deceased Major was quite a young man, only in his 32 year, and at the time of leaving England with his regiment, left his young wife on the eve of her confinement, with their second child. We regret to learn that, in the same affair, another Cheltenham officer—Lieut. Byron of the 34th Regiment—is reported as 'missing.'" Lieut. Byron is, we believe, a son of the Rev. Mr. Byron, of Edm-

stone Hardwicke, and is spoken of as a very promising young officer." [In the same paper it is stated that the report of Lieut. Byron's capture had been since ascertained to be true. A letter had been received, stating that on the night of December 20th, Lieut. Byron, Capt. Frampton, and Mr. Clarke were inside Sebastopol, where they were treated with the greatest kindness and consideration by the Russians, and were going to be sent immediately into the interior to Kouisk, about 400 miles north of Sebastopol. The letters state that Lieut. Byron withstood the charge of the Russians until he had only four men left to support him; when being himself disabled by a bayonet thrust through the right shoulder, he was obliged to surrender himself a prisoner to overpowering numbers.]

1855. January. In the annual report of the Christ Church Charities for the past year, Mr. Boyd stated that the congregation of that Church contributed £634 to the Patriotic Fund, £189 to relieve the widows and families of soldiers, and nearly £1,200 for other benevolent objects—making a total for the year of £2,007 13s. 10½d.

1855. January. Colonel Shewell at Balaklava. The "Examiner" says—A troop-major in the 8th Hussars, in a letter to his father, gives the following graphic account of the part taken in the memorable charge at Balaklava by Colonel Shewell, brother of E. W. Shewell, Esq., of this town:—"I am glad to see our brave and gallant colonel (Shewell) has been promoted. He richly deserves it; and but for his coolness and bravery there would have been an end to the Light Brigade. Well, indeed, our noble men followed his example. No men could work better, and their line in advance through the Russian artillery, as well as through their cavalry, could not be surpassed on Hounslow Heath. After we had sabred and passed their artillery at the end battery, the word was given, 'The Russian cavalry are in our rear: make ready to charge!' Our brave colonel shouted out immediately, 'Steady, my brave men!' in a cool but determined voice, followed by 'Right about, wheel.' We were all this time at a full gallop, and this movement brought the officers and front rank facing the Russian cavalry; and, when we were in line, the brave fellow said, 'Follow me—charge!' He led us on, and how he escaped is a miracle, for he was the first who came up to that tremendous mass of horsemen. We followed close, and went through them like the wind, making clear way for the others to follow; after which our handful of men broke, and each, as best he could, cut his way to his original ground. I shall never forget that day as long as I live. Only a handful of that devoted band of soldiers returned. We prize our gallant colonel the more because, for several days previous, he had been laid up in his tent, and even on the morning of the engagement he was too unwell to attend parade; but so soon did he hear the cannons roar, than he called his servant to enquire what was the cause, and, on being told, immediately ordered his horse to be saddled, but was obliged to be helped to mount it. He was no sooner seated than he put spurs to his noble beast, and came up at a gallop to take command of us; and, as I said before, well indeed, did he perform his part."

1855. February. Mrs. Edmunds, aunt to Robert Sole Lingwood, Esq., left the following sums, free of legacy duty, to local charities:—Cheltenham Hospital £150, Cheltenham Female Orphan Asylum £150, Cheltenham Infants' School, St. James's Square, £100, Cheltenham National School, Bath Road, £100; total, £500.

1855. February 7. First annual meeting of the Cheltenham Ladies' College. The number of pupils was stated to be 113.

1855. February 8. Mrs. Dormer, a lady well known in Cheltenham, died from injuries received from her dress coming in contact with the drawing room fire at her residence, 11, Lansdown Place.



1855. February 14. Death of a veteran. Died, at this town, on the 14th instant, in the 74th year of his age, Samuel Harris, formerly a private in the 66th, in which regiment he served nearly 15 years, and was engaged in the following battles—Oporto, Talavera, Albuera, Vittoria, Salamanca, Pyrenees, Pampeuna, Nivelle, Nive, and Toulouse. He was also present in many other minor engagements, was wounded three times, and received a medal with seven clasps. This was the only recompense the poor fellow ever obtained from his "grateful country," until within about two years of his death, when, his case being warmly taken up by Mr. Walter Jessop, of this town, and his services, and their neglect, commented upon in our own columns, the Government was prevailed upon to grant him a pension of ninepence per day, in consideration of his past services. This pittance was, of course, totally inadequate to find the poor old warrior the common necessities of life, and he was indebted to private benevolence for those little comforts rendered so necessary by his age and infirmities.—"Examiner."

1855. March 2. Death of the Emperor Nicholas. A telegram received in Cheltenham, announcing the sudden death of the Emperor of Russia, caused immense excitement. The "bulletin" issued at the "Examiner" office contained only half a dozen lines, giving the bare announcement of the fact, yet more than two thousand copies were sold in two hours. In reference to the event, the "Examiner" of March 7 states that allusion was made to it at most of the Cheltenham churches. The Rev. A. Boyd, at Christ Church, said he regarded the event as a distinct answer to prayer. "Only a fortnight ago the people had assembled in the house of God, and bowed themselves before Him in humble supplication. But none of us could have dreamt in what way our prayers would be answered. None of us could have imagined that, ere ten days had passed, the Angel of Death would come and lay his icy hand on the proud Nicholas, and lay him in the dust. Maybe, the very commencement of that man's illness would date from the very day when we knelt in prayer to God. It may be, on that day the decree went forth, commanding the Angel of Destruction to do his deadly work. In other words, God may have taken this way to make His people understand that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong; and that His arm is not short, or His ear heavy, but that he listens to, and answers, prayer the same now as he did eighteen hundred years ago." The same paper contained the following lines from a correspondent on this memorable event:—

#### THE HAND-WRITING ON THE WALL.

Hark! from the far off Neva's banks,  
A solemn sound is heard!  
And startled Europe's pulse beats quick  
At that eventful word.

An iron frame lies shattered,  
An iron will o'erthrown.  
How short, alas! the space between  
A coffin and a throne!

But yesterday that stubborn will  
Held millions in its thrall!  
To-day the Angel's hand hath traced  
Upon the palace wall

The short and fatal sentence—  
"THY DAYS ARE NUMBERED. THOU,  
"GREATER THAN CÆSAR YESTERDAY,  
"ART LESS THAN NOTHING NOW!"

1855. March 12. Stephen Curtis, while building a vault in the churchyard of Charlton Kings, was buried beneath the soil, and, when got out, was found to be quite dead.

1855. March. Approaching marriage in high life. We hear that Lady Charlotte Guest, the widow of Sir John Guest, Bart., is about to be married to the Rev. Mr. Schreiber, who is a Fellow and Examiner of Trinity College, Cambridge. Lady Charlotte has ten children, and is 45 years of age, and Mr. Schreiber is under 30 years. Ivor Guest, now about 21 years old, succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father, in 1852.—"Examiner," March 14.

1855. March. The litigation under the will of Miss Jane Cooke, who left £50,000 Consols. for the endowment of churches in poor districts, amicably settled. Under the terms of the arrangement, the churches of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. Luke, in this town, will be entitled to the dividend of £2,000 Consols. from this fund.—“Examiner,” March 21.

1855. March. Sir William Russell, Bart., of Charlton Park, being about to leave England for the Crimea, a subscription was set on foot for the purpose of presenting him with a testimonial.

1855. March. Capt. Swinburne Berkeley, eldest son of the Hon. Grantley Berkeley, and Captain in the South Gloucester Militia, having obtained the services of 100 volunteers from that regiment, applied to Lord Strafford for a commission in his father's old regiment, the Coldstream Guards, at present in the Crimea.

1855. March 21. Day of national fast and humiliation. Collections made in the churches to the amount of £357 18s.

1855. March 21. Lieut.-Colonel Commeline, a gentleman well known in Cheltenham, killed by a fall whilst following the hounds.

1855. April. Capt. Sherwood, son of Mrs. Sherwood, Suffolk Lawn; Capt. Boyle, son of A. Boyle, Esq., Clarence House; and Capt. Thorburn, accept commissions in the Turkish Contingent, under the command of Major-Gen. Vyvian.

1855. April 10. Opening services at Cambray Chapel at which the Rev. A. Fletcher and the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon officiated. The Rev. J. Smith, pastor of this chapel from its opening, died after a long illness from paralysis, December 15, 1862, aged 60.

1855. April 11. The voluntary Easter offerings collected for the Incumbent, stated in the “Examiner” to amount to nearly £550.

1855. April. During this month two veteran officers died in Cheltenham. The first, Admiral Lloyd, was the personification of a bluff old English sailor. He entered the navy in 1790, was at the Nile, the capture of Monte Video, and continued in active service until the peace of 1815. He had a naval medal with two clasps, was created a Knight of Hanover, and was in the enjoyment for some years of a good service pension of £150 a-year. He died April 29, almost suddenly. Captain Clubley, R.N., died, April 16, in a manner equally sudden. He saw much service in the early part of the century, but retired on half pay in 1815.

1855. Captain Crofton, R.E. This gallant and meritorious officer, who was a brother of Dr. Crofton, of Segrave Place in this town, has, we regret to hear, expired of his wounds received in the trenches before Sebastopol. Lord Raglan in his despatch, alludes to the deceased officer as one “who had, in the protracted operations before Sebastopol, rendered most essential service.” Private letters from the camp also speak of Captain Crofton's death with deep regret; his loss has been felt as a public calamity by the entire army. (“Examiner.”)

1855. Captain Gilby, 77th Regiment.—This gallant young officer, a son of the Rev. F. D. Gilby of this town, was wounded in the attack on the Russian “rifle pits,” against which he led on one of the assailing columns with great gallantry. This capture of the rifle pits in which Captain Gilby took so conspicuous a part, and in which so many officers, and among them the gallant “Boy Captain,” young Lempriere, unfortunately lost their lives, is spoken of as one of the most daring and successful episodes of the whole campaign. (“Examiner.”)

1855. Dr. Thomas Wright, F.R.S.E.—We hear, with great pleasure, that Dr. Wright, of this town, has, on the motion of Sir William Jardine, been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. This is a distinction very charily bestowed, but we do not know whether this illustrious society has really more

honoured itself or its new member. No man living is more deserving of such a Fellowship. In his own department of study, Dr. Wright has scarcely any superiors and very few compeers. ("Examiner.")

1855. June. British Officers in the hands of the Russians.—Letters have been received during the past week from Lieutenant Byron, of this town, dated "Riazan, May 11th," which speak cheerfully of the situation and treatment of the English prisoners, in the hands of the Russians. Lieutenant Byron mentions the names of the following officers:—Duff, of the 23rd; Frampton, of the 30th: Clowes, 8th Hussars; and Chadwick, 17th Hussars, as being with him at Riazan, and states that they are all well and looking forward to a speedy exchange, and a return once more to dear old England. "Examiner."

1855. June. A gift for a Duchess. The Duchess of Beaufort being in Cheltenham with the Duke, in the true spirit of a soldier's wife accompanied her husband, at the head of his regiment, to and from divine service at St. Paul's Church. Miss Hurlstone, of Maude's Elm Nursery, presented her Grace with a splendid *bouquet* on the occasion, a gift which the Duchess accepted with evident pleasure.

1855. Storming of the "Quarries." Cheltenham officers killed. June 7th and 8th the Allies made a simultaneous attack upon Sebastopol, the French attacking the "Mamelon," and the English the "Quarries." In this bloody encounter eleven English officers were killed, among whom were the following well-known in Cheltenham:—Lieutenant Machell, 62nd Regiment. This promising young officer, only about 20 years of age, was formerly a pupil at Cheltenham College. His uncle, an officer of Engineers, was killed in the trenches at the siege of St. Sebastion. His grandfather Col. Machell, lost an arm at the battle of White Plains in the American war. He had also an uncle wounded in the 18th Hussars at the Battle of Waterloo.—Lieut. Stone, 55th.—This young officer was well known in Cheltenham, and was the son of a gentleman residing in the neighbourhood of Tewkesbury. He was also, we believe, a student of Cheltenham College.—Lieutenant Carter, Royal Engineers.—This officer, who was killed on the 2nd of May, was also a pupil of Cheltenham College. He was a son of Admiral Carter, and received honourable mention in Lord Raglan's despatches.—Lieut. F. C. Playne. This young officer is reported as severely wounded. He is in the 2nd battalion of the Rifle Brigade, and was formerly a student of Cheltenham College. His parents reside at Minchinhampton, in this county, and he is, we believe, a grandson of J. E. Viner, Esq., of Badgworth.

1855. July 14. A terrific thunderstorm passed over Cheltenham. The fall of rain measured two inches in the course of twenty-four hours. A number of the streets and houses were flooded, and the new sewer laid down by the Commissioners "blown up" near the Bath Road, committing much damage on private property as well as to the sewer itself.

1855. July. Captain Kingscote, M.P. for the Western Division, promoted to be Lieut.-Colonel, and Capt. Gilby to be Major, for distinguished services in the Crimea.

1855. July 23. Death of Major Gilby, of disease, in the Crimea. Deceased was son of the Rev. F. D. Gilby, for many years Incumbent of St. James's Church, Cheltenham.

1855. July 26. The great flood in Cheltenham. Continuous and heavy rains fell during the whole of Wednesday, the 25th, and Thursday, the 26th. The water actually *hisssed* as it fell upon the pavement, and out-door traffic was entirely put a stop to. About 5 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, the houses along the line of the sewers were inundated by the water bubbling up through their lower floors, and towards 6 o'clock, the water of the Chelt, bursting the banks along its upper portion, and rushing through the town in a deluge, in a very few

minutes the whole of the houses from the Bath Road to Alstone, and occupying a belt of some hundred yards in width, had their basements flooded from three to four feet in depth! The first outburst of the water occurred in Charlton Kings, where a culvert at the upper mill blew up and a piece of made land, of very nearly an acre in extent, and used as a sort of coal and faggot wharf, was swept bodily away! From thence the torrent spread through the low-lying lands at Charlton, passed the Sandford Mill, and rushing onward through the Sandford-fields swept over the made ground of Wood's Road in a cascade some three feet in depth, and immediately spread itself through the "Mitre Fields," carrying away fences, pig-sties, hay-ricks, and garden produce in its onward progress! From the Mitre Fields the torrent rolled across the Bath Road, Cambray, Rodney Terrace, and Regent Street to the Promenade, where it made a clean breach through some of the principal houses, gushing down the front steps and up the area gratings in cascades which reached half way across the spacious pavements, while over the roadway itself it rushed with the velocity of a mill race, being all but impassable to carriages and vehicles, and carrying away several venturesome pedestrians who attempted to ford it. From the Promenade, the tide, now more than a hundred yards in width, rolled past the Royal Crescent, Bays Hill Terrace, and St. George's Terrace, until it rejoined the uncovered portion of the river near Jessop's Gardens. Here the weight and impetus of the immense body of water became perfectly irresistible, and at a bend of the stream at the back of York Terrace it burst through the embankment, and rolled in wide spread desolation through the beautiful nursery grounds which lay stretched beyond. The wall between the gardens of Messrs. Jessop, junr. and sen. was swept away, and a large number of fancy poultry, belonging to the former, were drowned, while the gardens of the latter, one hour before a perfect picture of cultivated beauty, became the bed of a raging torrent of mud and water. The greenhouses, with their costly plants, were swept away, the arches of rose trees, which had cost years of labour to bring to maturity, were destroyed, and the rich loam of the garden, to the extent of several hundred yards, was washed away before the advancing torrent. The water lay on one portion of Mr. Jessop's grounds upwards of seven feet in depth, and in the course of the evening a quantity of debris, consisting of bricks, gravel, and pieces of wood, was swept through the breach in the embankment into the gardens of the estimated weight of from 500 to 600 tons! From Jessop's Gardens the waters found an outlet through the arches of the Great Western Railway, and sweeping over the low lying lands beyond, continued their destructive course through Alstone, and there spread themselves over the face of the country for many miles. For between three and four hours this torrent of water continued to rush through the streets at the rate of six or seven miles an hour, in a stream from one to two hundred yards wide, and in some places nearly five feet deep; and from these facts, those who did not witness the phenomena, can form some faint conception of the scene, of which we at home were compelled to be reluctant spectators. "Examiner," Aug. 1.

1855. July. Col. Shewell. This gallant officer, whose name is so well known in Cheltenham, has taken the command of the second brigade of cavalry in the Crimea, during the absence of Lord George Paget, who is on his way to England for a short stay to recruit his health. "Examiner," Aug. 1.

1855. August 16. The clapper of the tenor bell in St. Mary's Church fell out this evening, and considerably marred the music of the "merry peal."

1855. August 25. The late Flood Subscriptions announced for the sufferers by this calamity of upwards of £400—Lord Fitzhardinge giving £10; Lord Northwick, Mr. Grenville Berkeley, Mr. Pilkington, Mr. Lumb, Mr. Skillicorne, Mr. Corbett, and Mr. Schonswar, £5 each. The total damage done was estimated at £10,000, Mr. Jessop's loss alone being found to exceed £800, besides the loss of

many rare plants on which no money value could be put, because they were such as no money could replace. In Mr. Jessop's garden one large stone, of a ton weight, was shifted bodily many yards by the force of the water.

1855. August 28. Public meeting at Charlton Kings. A silver salver presented to Sir William Russell, previous to his departure for the Crimea.

1855. August. Subscription raised for purchasing the Old Workhouse, now the Parish Church National and Infant Schools, near the Great Western Station. The building was purchased in the name of Mr. Hasell, then Parish Church warder, for £520; of this £300 was paid by legacies previously available for the purpose, and of the remaining £250, £192 was collected by Mr. John Russell, and on Mr. Close's return this month, the building was handed over to him for the use of the schools, free from debt.

1855. September 4. The coal wharves and brick yards on the Old Gloucester-road, six acres in extent, sold by auction by Mr. James Villar. The purchaser, Mr. John Williams; price £2,540.

1855. September. Illness of the Rev. F. Close. The rev. gentleman was rowing on the lake of Geneva and blistered his hand: the wound became so serious that an operation under chloroform was considered necessary, and an attack of gout supervening in the injured arm, the patient's life was for some time in danger.

1855. September. A Crimean memorial proposed to be erected in Cheltenham College. Of the twenty-six officers killed in the attack on the Redan, no less than five were old Collegians.

1855. September. Lieut. C. W. Willis, of the 33rd Regiment, son of Dr. Sherlock Willis, of the Manor House, Swindon, and a former pupil of Cheltenham College, wounded in the English attack on the Redan.

1855. September 10. News arrived in Cheltenham of the final assault and capture of Sebastopol. Upwards of 3000 bulletins were sold at the "Examiner" Office; and so great was the rush that the crowd who were admitted at the front door had to be let out by the back. In the next number of the paper, the following lines appeared appropriate to the occasion:—

"IO TRIUMPH!"

Aye, chime the bells—and bid each rocking steeple,  
Peal forth the tidings;—chime it loyal bells!  
Lo! far beneath, they cluster—happy people,  
With lips of praising, and with heart that swells.

O'er the proud forts our foeman stoutly cherish'd  
As from vast pyres, the murderous torrents blaze—  
Mines burst—and navies sunk—and myriads perish'd—  
'Tis ours!—great God be thank'd—that day of days!

See! a glad Sultan leads a rare ovation,  
Where pale of late he told the desperate hours,  
Oh! how he smiles to name our island nation  
Oh! how he lands our deed of justice—ours!

See! with keen hand, an eager Emperor tearing  
The seal'd despatch; enough! that thrilling glance,  
Enough! oh hark!—The vocal winds are bearing  
One grand *Te Deum* from triumphant France!

See! a sweet lady hears the gallant story  
 Where waves the heather round her quiet door;  
 Hears of that fierce assault—those feats of glory  
 The breach accomplish'd, and the struggle o'er!  
 Hears how her troops in life and death adore her;  
 In life and death enhance her rare renown;  
 Perchance she kneels;—perchance there falls before her  
 A tear of joy—a jewel from the crown!  
 See a whole world, astonished, mute, confounded,  
 (So passing quick the last great exploits came)  
 A whole wide world (thus is our prowess bounded)  
 Owns the just cause, and hails the deed of fame!

Cheltenham, Sept. 17, 1855.

J. D. M.

1855. September 20. Stormy meeting at the Town Hall on the Public Library Act. The resolution for the introduction of the Act into Cheltenham lost on a show of hands.

1855. September 29. Meeting to commemorate the completion of the Roman Catholic Church; Among the toasts were—"Our Protestant friends, and thanks for their donations."

1855. September 30. The Incumbent of Christ Church on this day of National Thanksgiving, asserted from the pulpit that the capture of Sebastopol was an occasion of humiliation rather than thanksgiving, because on that day "the English soldiers had turned their backs upon their enemies in the day of battle."

1855. November 7. Cheltenham "Examiner" first printed by steam.

1855. November 19. Death of Major John Harman Brown, one of the oldest officers in the army, at his residence, Salopian-villas. He was born in 1763, joined the 52nd Foot as ensign in 1779, and retired in 1813, after more than 40 years active service. Such was the vigour of the deceased General's constitution, that although upwards of 92 years of age, he has been in the habit, up to the last few months, of frequently travelling from Cheltenham to London and back the same day.

1855. November 22. Visit of Lord John Russell to Cheltenham. His lordship was the guest of Dr. Humphreys, Head Master of the Grammar School, and was present while the pupils, 300 in number, were under examination.

1855. November 25. Rev. F. Close preached in the Parish Church, the first time since his recent illness.

1855. November 29. Sir Colin Campbell, (now Lord Clyde), visited Cheltenham, and took up his quarters at the Queen's. No public demonstration was made, as the gallant general was to start for the Crimea in three or four days.

1855. December 15. Lieut. Battine, his brother, and two other officers of Chatham garrison, drowned by the upsetting of a boat on the river Medway. "The young Battines were intimately known in Cheltenham, where their late father, General Battine, resided, and where, indeed, their widowed mother, as well as many near and dear relatives still live. The painful bereavement to which Mrs Battine has thus been subjected, was most feelingly alluded to by the Rev. A. Boyd in the course of his sermon at Christ Church on the following Sunday morning." "Examiner."

1856. January 16. Madame Jenny Lind Goldschmidt gave two concerts at the Assembly Rooms. After the performance, the fair singer handed to Mr. T. G. Palmer a donation of forty pounds for the Cheltenham Hospital.

1856. January 24. Captain Cousins, a gentleman residing at 28, Park Place, committed suicide, by hanging himself from the ceiling of his study.

1856. Captain Close, R.N., son of the Rev. F. Close, appointed to the steam gunboat Mohawk, for service in the Baltic.

1856. A Crimean soldier, named Seymour, died of lock jaw in Cheltenham workhouse. He was wounded at the Alma, and public indignation was strongly expressed at his being discharged on the beggarly pension of 6d. a day, and thus allowed to end his days in the workhouse.

1856. February 10. Sudden death of Mrs. Skillicorne, mother of W. N. Skillicorne, Esq., in her 76th year.

1856. Dr. Humphreys, head master of the Grammar School, presented with a copy of "Natural History of the Dee Side," bearing the inscription,—“This book, printed by command of the Queen, is presented to Cheltenham Grammar School, by H.R.H. Prince Albert.”

1856. February. Gas Company's mains carried to the Midland Station and to Marle Hill.

1856. February 13. Mr. W. P. Brookes, a resident practitioner, successfully applied a ligature round the exterior iliac artery of a patient suffering from aneurism,—a very delicate and rare operation. The man is now (1863) still well and active.

1856. March 5. General Wright, whose venerable appearance was well known in Cheltenham, died at his residence, Woburn Hall, Grosvenor Street. He entered the army in 1796, saw much active service, and his death placed a battalion worth £1000 a-year, at the disposal of the War Office authorities.

1856. March 19. Mr John Barnet, solicitor, and known many years as coroner of the Cheltenham district, died this day at his residence, Monmouth.

1856. March 19. Death of Lord Boston, aged 79. He was succeeded by his son, the Hon. George Ives Irby, who married Miss Northey, a sister of Mrs. Agg Gardner of this town.

1856. March 27. Transfer of the business of the Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Bank, Clarence Street, to the County Bank, High Street.—April 3. Sudden death of Mr. Wm. Ridler, the manager. The "Examiner" of April 9th, says:—"We deeply regret to record the sudden death of this gentleman, which took place at the Bank Buildings, in Clarence Street, on Thursday last. Deceased, for some months past, appeared in a declining state of health, being subject to occasional fits of extreme nervous depression. Latterly he appeared to be more at ease. He was engaged at the bank up to the close of the business on Wednesday afternoon, but not feeling well he retired to rest at any early hour. He was visited by some members of his family about midnight, and was heard by one of the servants to cough as late as half-past six o'clock in the morning, but on being called about eight o'clock he was found to be quite dead."

1856. April 19. Jonah Dyer, a lad, six years of age, in the band of the South Gloucestershire Militia, was specially noticed by the Queen at a review at Aldershot. Her Majesty was so pleased with him, that she presented him with money to purchase him a sword and belt, as a memento of her royal favour.

1856. April 20. Parish Church re-opened after extensive repairs, during the progress of which the congregation occupied the Town Hall.

1856. Captain Sir Wm. Russell appointed to perform the duties of deputy assistant adjutant general, or deputy assistant quartermaster general to the cavalry division in the Crimea, during the absence in England of Brevet Majors Connolly and Fellowes.

1856. Imperial Hotel, Promenade, (now occupied as the Imperial Club) passed into the hands of Mr. W. S. Davis, proprietor of "The Queens."

1856. May 1. Peace with Russia publicly proclaimed through the streets of Cheltenham by Mr. John Preston, town crier.

1856. May 4. Under her Majesty's proclamation special services were held to-day in thanksgiving for the restoration of peace.

1856. May 22. Montpellier Baths property put up to auction at the Plough Hotel. The highest bidding being £1,600 the property was declared "bought in" at the reserved price of £3,000.

1856. May 22. Messrs. Handy, Fletcher, and Beale Browne despatched consignments of their pure Cotswold breed of sheep for show at the Paris Exhibition.

1856. June 1. The incumbent preached a sermon at the Parish Church on the conviction of William Palmer, for the murder at Rugeley. The sermon was published at the "Examiner" office under the title of "The Murderer," and obtained a very large circulation.

1856. June 3. Beautifully engrossed address, on vellum, signed by many hundreds of the principal residents, presented to Lord Northwick for his liberality in keeping open his choice collection of pictures for the free use of the public. Mr. J. A. Gardner, Lord of the Manor, headed the deputation appointed to wait upon his Lordship.

1856. June 3. Peace demonstration in Cheltenham. Galas at the Old Wells and Montpellier. School children to the number of 2000 marched through the town in honour of the event; but the inhabitants generally showed considerable lukewarmness from disappointment at the easy terms granted by the allies to Russia.

1856. June 5. Odd Fellows' fête at Old Wells, to Colonel (then Captain) Berkeley, M.P.

1856. June 6. Death of Dr. James Henry Monk, Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, aged 72. The venerable prelate left property to the amount of £150,000.

1856. June 14. A tremendous hailstorm passed over Cheltenham. The hail lay for some hours in heaps on the ground, affording to the urchins the unusual pastime of a game of snow-balling in the middle of June.

1856. June 25. Public meeting at the Town Hall for the assistance of the sufferers by the disastrous floods in France. The collections amounted to between £200 and £300.

1856. July 9. The bed on which George III. slept when visiting Cheltenham in the year 1788, was sold by Mr. James Villar at an auction at Fielding's Victoria Hotel, Winchcomb-street, on Wednesday. The purchaser was F. Findon, Esq., Prestbury.

1856. July 23. A large bird continued perched upon the vane of the Parish Church from Saturday afternoon until Monday morning, when Mr. Hollis gunsmith, brought a favourite rifle to the churchyard, and after about half-a-dozen unsuccessful shots managed to bring down the strange visitor from its elevated perch. It proved to be a large pigeon.

1856. July. Meeting of the Grand National Archery Society.

1856. August 4. Wheat rose at Mark Lane to-day 12s. to 14s. per quarter. On the same day, growing crops in the neighbourhood of Cheltenham were sold—wheat £15 per acre, barley £12, oats £6, peas £10, and grass crops, with grazing up to September 29th, £6 5s. per acre.

1856. August 6. Meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science commenced at the Proprietary College. Among the many distinguished visitors were—Professor Daubeny, His Grace the Duke of Argyll, Lord Wrottesley, Sir H. Rawlinson, Lord Stanley, Sir J. Kay Shuttleworth, Sir Charles Hastings, Professor Owen, Dr. Brenneke, Prussia, Professor Rogers, Boston, &c. The inaugural address was delivered by the President, Dr. Daubeny,



In order to perpetuate a remembrance of the visit, medals were struck in gold, and presented to the Proprietary College and Grammar School.

1856. August 6. Sir J. Ross, the celebrated Arctic navigator, arrived on a visit to Capt. St. Clair, of Staverton Court, during the British Association, and is expected to read a paper on the "Deviation of the Compass."

1856. August 13. Col. Lake, one of the heroes of Kara, arrived in Cheltenham the other day, and took up his residence, with his family, at No. 17, Promenade.

1856. August 13. Queen's Hotel. Upwards of one hundred visitors took up at this far famed and magnificent establishment during the past week.

1856. August 15. "An official announcement." On Friday, John Preston, the town crier, delivered the following notice: "Notice is hereby given to the bakers and inhabitants of Cheltenham that the price of corn has decreased 16s. per quarter within the last three weeks."

1856. August 15. Imperial Club formed at Cheltenham.

1856. August 15. New Savings' Bank building in Rodney Terrace opened for business.

1856. September 1. Cheltenham postmen clothed to-day for the first time in the "Queen's livery."

1856. September 1. A "fluke" potato dug in the Elm Nursery Gardens weighing 32½ ounces.

1856. September 24. Meeting in the Town Hall for carrying out the Public Libraries Act. Mr. Onley, Capt. Robertson, Mr. Lingwood, and others opposed the introduction of the Act to Cheltenham, and the meeting decided against the motion by an overwhelming majority.

1856. October 1. Death of Col. Shewell, C.B., 8th Hussars, aged 47. He was one of the survivors of the gallant charge at Balaklava.

1856. October. Nine red deer, the gift of Lord Fitzhardinge, kept for hunting purposes at the Cheltenham kennels, broke loose, and spread themselves over the country. It was not until more than a week, and after several "good runs," that the whole of the deer were captured, and restored to their stables.

1856. October 20. The Incumbent of Cheltenham received an authoritative announcement from Lord Palmerston of his appointment to the Deanery of Carlisle.

1856. October 23. Imperial Club, Promenade, opened for the reception of members.

1856. November 1. Public meeting at the Assembly Rooms for a testimonial to the late Incumbent, on his leaving for the Deanery of Carlisle. Men of all parties in politics and all sects in religion united cordially in the movement. The amount of subsequent subscriptions to the testimonial was about £1,000, to which Earl Fitzhardinge contributed the handsome sum of £25. The parochial clergy presented a separate testimonial of a folio Bible, handsomely bound, and a massive carved oak reading desk. The masters of the College presented a handsome timepiece, and the pupils a silver timepiece; while the masters and pupils of the Grammar School subscribed for, and presented the rev. gentleman with, a silver inkstand and appointments of the value of £20. All these testimonials were presented to Mr. Close, at the Grange, on December 3.

1856. November 9. Dr. Baring, the newly appointed Bishop of the Diocese, preached in the Parish Church. In the evening, Mr. Close preached the last sermon of his 30 years' ministration to his congregation.

1856. November 26. The Water Company, after long negotiations, consented to lay down separate "fire mains" along the whole of their system.

1856. November 28. Completion of the new National Schools in St. James's Square, on the site formerly occupied by the old Workhouse.

1856. November 28. John Collett, Esq., formerly M.P. for Athlone, and for many years a constant resident at Lake House, Cheltenham, destroyed himself by shooting himself through the head with a pistol. Mr. Collett entertained such an aversion to the game laws that he was in the habit of releasing game law offenders in all parts of the kingdom, by payment of the fines and expenses.

1856. December 3. John Whitwell, pupil of the Grammar School, and *dux* of the Classical Department, elected to the Townsend Scholarship.

1856. December. The "Cheltenham Literary Annual"—the articles by resident authors—published at the "Examiner" office.

1856. December 11. Sale of property and securities of the late Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Bank, by Mr. James Villar.

1856. December 17. Only eight burials this week for the entire parish of Cheltenham.

1856. December 23. Public meeting at the Town Hall—Col. Berkeley, M.P., in the chair—to petition against the unjust and oppressive features of the Income Tax.

1857. January 14. First annual meeting of the Imperial Club, held at the new premises, Promenade. The club at that time comprised about two hundred and fifty members.

1857. January 17. First brick laid of the Water Company's new reservoir, at Hewlett's. The reservoir is four acres in extent, of a maximum depth of twenty-five feet, and estimated to hold sixteen millions of gallons of water.

1857. January 28. Death of Mr. John Nash Belcher, an old inhabitant of the town.

1857. January. From an official statement of the county expenditure it appears that the total county and police rates for Gloucestershire, amounted to £47,793, of which Cheltenham contributed £4,558, or about one-tenth.

1857. February 1. Re-opening of St. Paul's Church, after interior alterations, and re-arrangement of the pulpit and reading desk.

1857. February 12. Death of J. T. Addams, Esq., for many years manager of the Gloucestershire Bank in this town.

1857. February 12. The wife of Mr. George Smith, assistant to Mr. Westley, 96, High-street, gave birth to three children.

1857. February 18. Captain Berkeley, M.P., visited Cheltenham, and was initiated into the mysteries of the Masonic Craft, on joining the Royal Union Lodge of Freemasons.

1857. February 23. Accident to Earl Fitzhardinge. While following the hounds in the Vale of Berkeley, when his lordship was stooping to avoid an overhanging bough, the horse stumbled in a grip, and the sudden check caused its rider to be thrown over the horse's head with considerable violence. His lordship, however, fortunately happened to pitch upon his shoulder. It was feared at first that one or more ribs had been broken. The carriage was sent for, and the noble earl conveyed to Berkeley Castle, and messengers despatched for medical assistance. It was hoped for some time that the noble earl had not sustained any serious injury; the shock to the system was, however, so great that he never recovered his usual health, but continued to gradually sink until the time of his death, which took place on Saturday evening, October 10th, 1857, in the 71st year of his age.

1857. March 4. Lord Palmerston's Government defeated in the House of Commons by a majority of sixteen on Mr. Cobden's motion, censuring the war in China. An address was got up and received the signatures of men of all parties in Cheltenham urging his lordship to appeal to the country, and expressing the conviction of the memorialists that "the unnatural and factious coalition in the House of Commons will result in more firmly establishing you in that power

which you have so ably wielded during a most trying and momentous period in support of the best interests of this great country." The address received nearly 1,200 signatures, and was presented by a deputation consisting of Major Edwards and W. M. Tait, Esq. Lord Palmerston appeared much gratified at the number of the signatures, and more especially, perhaps, that they included gentlemen of all shades of opinion. So strong was the feeling in Cheltenham in favour of our policy in China, that, at the election which ensued, Captain Berkeley was returned without opposition; a requisition to Sir Maxwell Steele proving a complete failure, and only obtaining about 300 signatures.

1857. March 21. T. E. Goddard, Esq., appointed Manager of the Gloucestershire Bank, in the room of Mr. Addams, deceased.

1857. March 24. Extraordinary accident at Mr. Whitcombe's looking-glass and picture gallery, Clarence-street. The cistern overflowed during the night, and in the morning the premises were found deluged with water, the damage being estimated at several hundred pounds.

1857. April 1. Some wag "tried it on" by sending an advertisement to the "Examiner," announcing a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, in Sandford Field. The advertisement being discovered to be a hoax, it was, of course, omitted, but the next morning the same announcement was distributed about the town in the form of a handbill. A large crowd congregated in Sandford Fields at the hour named; but, of course, no Mr. Spurgeon! The "Examiner" of the following week, in noticing the occurrence, says:—"If the author of the handbill is discovered, he may probably find out to his cost that there is a stream of water running through Sandford Fields, which may be quite as usefully employed in the ducking of his own person as in the baptism of Mormonite disciples."

1857. April 13. Mrs. Cullis, a "lady preacher," occupied the pulpit at Bethany Chapel, Regent-street, and delivered a discourse of three-quarters of an hour to a crowded and attentive audience.

1857. April 22. The Prince of Oude, whose visit to this country with his *suite* has occasioned much curiosity, stayed at the Queen's Hotel, Promenade, for a short time, on Wednesday last, *en route* to the seat of the Earl of Ellenborough, at Southam. Having had an interview with his Lordship the Prince returned to Cheltenham, but shortly afterwards took his departure for London, his visit altogether not occupying more than a few hours.—"Examiner," April 29.

1857. April. The Rev. H. W. Bellairs and the Rev. F. Temple initiated the scheme of Oxford Middle Class Examinations, since so beneficially acted upon throughout the country.

1857. April. Among the English officers created members of the Imperial Order of the Legion of Honour we observe the name of Lieut.-Colonel George Steevens, of the 20th Regiment, (second son of Lieut.-Colonel Steevens, of this town), a gallant officer, who has not survived to receive his well-earned decoration, his death having taken place in February last, the result of arduous service in the Crimea.—"Examiner," April 29.

1857. May 14. Death of Mr. Robert Burns, the eldest son of the poet, and brother of Col. Wm. Burns and Lieut.-Col. James Burns, of Cheltenham.

1857. May 26. Opening of St. Gregory's (Roman Catholic) Church, with sermon by Cardinal Wiseman.

1857. May 27. Intimation received by Messrs. Fisher and Hasell, churchwardens, of the appointment of the Rev. E. Walker to the Incumbency of Cheltenham. The new Incumbent preached at the Parish Church for the first time since his appointment on Sunday, June 14.

1857. July. The Dean of Carlisle and Mrs. Close made a short sojourn at Cheltenham this month, residing at No. 4, Bayshill-terrace. On Tuesday, the 7th, the Dean officiated at the Parish Church at the nuptials of his son, Henry

Pelham Close, Esq., Bombay army, with Miss Annie Hudleston, daughter of R. B. Hudleston, Esq., of Aban Court.

1857. July 4. Mr. Charles Matthews performed at the Old Wells, sustaining the character of "Mopus" in *Married for Money*; and "Plumper," in as *Cool as a Cucumber*, before a highly fashionable audience.

1857. July 4. Sudden death of Miss Louisa Moroney, from spasms at the heart, at the residence of her mother, 2, Blenheim-parade, Pittville, aged 26.

1857. July. News received in Cheltenham from India of the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Möller, of the 11th N.I. With distinguished bravery he galloped into the midst of the mutineers at Meerut, satisfied himself of the nature of their proceedings, and then, by the aid of a revolver, fought his way back. Lieut. Möller subsequently drove in his buggy to the heart of the city, seized the murderer of Mrs. Chambers, and carried him off to a gibbet, from which he was presently suspended. This young officer was a brother of the late Major Möller, of the 50th, who fell in the trenches before Sebastopol while gallantly cheering on his 250 men, to repel with the bayonet 2,000 of the enemy.

1857. July 17. Collision on the Great Western Railway, near the Bayshill bridge. The "up" express, on leaving the station at 2.25, ran off the rails near the spot indicated, and came into collision with the down train just arriving from Gloucester. Many of the passengers were severely shaken; but there was no loss of life or limb. A pointman named French was taken into custody for supposed negligence, but it did not appear he was to blame. He was a very steady man, a Crimean soldier with medals for "Alma," "Balaklava," "Inkermann," and "Sebastopol."

1857. July 25. Died, at East Hayes, Pittville, aged 62, the Rev. J. Browne for more than 30 years minister of Trinity Church.

1857. July 28. Presentation of a handsome time-piece to Dr. Orrell, by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity, "as a token of esteem for his uniform kindness and attention to their sick brethren, and as a testimony of their appreciation of his character as an Odd Fellow and a gentleman."

1857. August 15. Sir William Russell left Charlton Park amid the warm *adieux* of his friends to proceed with his regiment, the 7th Hussars, for service in India.

1857. August 24. Special public prayer meeting for the preservation of our countrymen and countrywomen yet spared from massacre in India.

1857. August. Ensign Browne, son of Dr. Browne, of Pittville, escaped the general massacre of the officers of the 5th Bengal Native Infantry at Cawnpore.

1857. September 15. Large public meeting at the Assembly Rooms to express sympathy with the sufferers by the Indian Mutiny, and to organise means for their relief. J. A. Gardner, Esq., in the chair.

1857. September. Capt. A. J. Schreiber, 31st Foot, recommended to the Sultan as worthy the decoration of the Order of the Medjidie.

1857. September 17. The Rev. Henry Foulkes, D.D., Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, and formerly Incumbent of Cheltenham, died this afternoon, at the advanced age of 84. He was appointed to the Incumbency of Cheltenham in 1799, and held it until 1816, when he was elected Principal of Jesus College, which post he held for forty years. Dr. Foulkes was one of the Commissioners named in the Cheltenham Improvement Act of 1821.

1857. September 22. A woman going by the name of Martha Heath, and living at 16, Sandford Street, found drowned in the Chelt, near Barrett's Mill. Deceased was 83 years of age, and the "Examiner" in noticing her death says:—"We understand that, although deceased went by the name of Heath, her real name was Martha Probert. She was the wife of a man of that name, who was,

in company of Thurtell and Hunt, engaged in the robbery and murder of Mr. Weare, whose death some thirty years ago caused so much excitement throughout the country. On that occasion Probert saved himself from the gallows by turning King's evidence. His two companions in crime were convicted and hung, and Probert himself was some time afterwards convicted of horse stealing, and the crime at that time being a capital offence, he suffered the same fate as his former accomplices. Mrs. Probert then took upon herself the name of Heath, and has since resided with her relatives in Cheltenham."

1857. September 23. News from India of the horrible massacre at Cawnpore, in which tragedy upwards of 800 white and native Christians were said to have been 'mutilated and destroyed. The news excited a feeling of indignation such as is rarely witnessed. Allusion was made to it in most of the churches, and the subscriptions for the surviving sufferers amounted to two thousand pounds. The following lines upon the state of public feeling in Cheltenham, were inserted in the "Examiner" of September 23rd :—

#### CHELTENHAM AND INDIA.

Aye, my poor Townsmen, ye may well be sad  
Well may we call our Meeting, and combine  
Our gifts of sympathy, and all to feed,  
To clothe our own sick sons—yea more, to bind  
The ghastly wounds of our sweet, darling girls!  
Our's? yes our own!—What loyal English town  
More whelm'd with anguish? Where the happy hearths  
More robb'd than ours?—

O, 'tis a pleasant place  
This Cheltenham! the good old officer,  
All bronzed and bruised with manifold campaigns  
Beneath the skies of Hindostan, returns  
To nestle here—here, where the Cotswolds break  
The inclement blasts of winter, and the leaves  
Of myriad vistas screen the summer's sun—  
What meetings then with comrades! morn and eve  
Hear the old fights re-fought, and how they slew  
The monarch of the jungle—Merry days!  
Merrier than this!—to-day the laugh is dumb,  
Grief in the face, and crape upon the hat,  
Bad news to-day!—

It is a drawing-room  
The walls stand thick with portraits, manly son  
And valiant nephew, each in uniform,  
Ta'en ere they left for India, there they hang!  
Fine lordly features all! and all are gone,  
Full of high hope and enterprise, to fight  
Hereditary foes, perchance to vie  
With their stout father's fame. Where are they now?  
"God knows!" a lady's bursting sobs replied,  
"Poor Frank here"—and she show'd a photograph,  
The case all worn and dripping of her tears—  
"Poor Frank was last in Delhi: but the mails  
Speak not of him—my gentle Robert, too,  
(O God, so like his sire!) a poniard, sir,  
Cleft that young loving heart!"

Most passing sad!

Sad, yet not saddest,—you remember well  
Sweet Emmeline the beautiful?—'twas she  
The belle of belles that scarce two years ago  
All eyes so worshipp'd—on the Promenade,  
Or in the dance, who like her? Merry girl!  
And good as merry!—well, the wedding came,  
A blithesome one, I warrant ye—the spire  
Danc'd to the peals—delighted guests announc'd  
All joys—and in the nuptial toast 'twas said  
How she should go to India and grow rich  
And live so long and happily!—and so  
They sail'd.—Anon, the blessed mails arriv'd  
Bearing glad news of both—anon they spake  
Of Emmeline's sweet infant—and anon  
Of neither babe nor parent!—but then came  
Words which I may not copy. \* \* \*

Oh! my poor Townsman, we may well be sad.  
Well may we fix our brimming eyes above  
And gaze! and gaze! and gaze!

J. D. M.

1857. September. The honorary canonry in Gloucester Cathedral, vacant by the death of the Rev. Richard Davies, conferred on the Rev. Archibald Boyd, A.M., incumbent of Christ Church.

1857. Welcome Home.—Among the names in our arrival list this week we observe with pleasure that of our respected townsman, George Edmunds Williams, Esq., who returns to his professional avocations in Cheltenham after a long sojourn, under medical treatment, in London. The friends of Mr. Williams will rejoice to learn that he has so far conquered his old enemy the gout, as to be able to resume his duties as clerk to the Commissioners, as well as to apply himself as usual to his own professional practice. "Examiner," Sept. 30.

1857. A Cheltenham Hero.—We understand that Lieut. Bogle, of the 78th Highlanders, who distinguished himself so greatly at the capture of Oonao, on the 20th of July, is a son of A. Bogle, Esq., of Clarence House, in this town. He was severely wounded while leading the way into a loopholed house. General Havelock has recommended the gallant young officer to the notice of his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief. "Examiner," Sept. 30.

1857. October 1 and 2. Mr. W. Russell, the "Times" correspondent, gave his personal reminiscences of the Crimean war.

1857. October 7. Day of national humiliation and prayer under the Queen's proclamation. Services at all the churches and chapels. The "Examiner" in prefacing its report of the various sermons says—"Her Majesty's commands were obeyed with all the solemnity befitting the occasion. The hundreds of our families who have friends and relatives in India—the hundreds more whose connections are on the way thither to avenge the outrages which have been perpetrated on our suffering fellow-countrymen, are all at this moment moved with deep feelings of sorrow or anxiety; while among the great mass of the nation, there are few hearts who do not sympathise with the sufferings from which they individually are exempt, or who do not feel that in this rebellion, there are circumstances which deeply affect our national honour, and call for a public expression of national humiliation."

1857. A relic of Frederick the Great found at Lansdown. "A man digging in a garden at Lansdown, turned up a medal in an excellent state of preservation.

The piece, which is somewhat larger than an English crown, was struck to commemorate the two victories gained by Frederick the Great over the Austrians—that at Rosebach, Nov. 5, 1757, and that at Lissa on Dec. 5, in the same year. It is cast from gun metal from cannon captured in the above engagements, and bears on its face an equestrian figure of the great Frederick, with the words 'Frederick, D. G., Borvs, Rex., et Protestanti Defenso', and on the reverse a battle piece with the motto 'Quo nihil magus meliusve.' The medal has been purchased by Mr. Jung, nurseryman." "Examiner," November 4.

1857. November 17. Sudden death of J. J. Rigley, Esq., at his residence, Boulton Villa, Charlton Kings.

1857. November 24. Marriage of Captain Berkeley, M.P.—We understand the gallant member for Cheltenham was married yesterday to Miss Sumner, a daughter of Colonel Holme Sumner, of the Hatchlands, near Guildford, Surrey. The young lady is a near relative of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The bells of our parish church rang out a merry peal last evening in honour of the event. "Examiner," Nov. 25.

1857. November 26. Lieutenant D. M. Gilby, son of the Rev. F. D. Gilby severely wounded at Cawnpore.

1857. November 28. Distressing accident in the hunting field to Mrs. E. Dangerfield, of 1, Berkeley Villas. Mrs. Dangerfield was riding on her pony when the horse of one of the field struck out with tremendous force, inflicting a compound fracture of the bones of the leg. The "gentleman?" riding the vicious brute galloped on without stopping to enquire into the extent of the injury.

1857. Dec. Vice-Admiral Sir Maurice Berkeley, on quitting the Admiralty, has bestowed his hauling-down vacancy upon Commander Fredk. Augustus Maxse (1855), now serving in the Ariel at Gibraltar. Captain Maxse is the officer who, as Lieutenant, traversed a forest some thirty miles in extent, thickly interspersed with Cossacks, in order to convey intelligence to and from Lord Raglan and Lord Lyons after the battle of Alma; for which he was specially promoted on completing the necessary period of service. "Examiner."

1857. Dec. Cheltenham Collegians in India. Proposal for a memorial window with tablets bearing the names of the nine pupils of the College who fell at the siege of Delhi, similar to that erected to the ten other pupils who fell in the Crimea.

1858. January. Mr. Mangles, Chairman of the East India Company, gave a cadetship in the Indian Navy to the third son of Mr. Cheek of Evesham, as a token of sympathy with the father on the loss of his elder son (late a pupil in the Cheltenham Grammar School) at the hands of the rebels in the Indian Mutiny.

1858. January. Proposed new street, to afford a direct communication from Clarence Street to the Great Western Station, in St. James's Square. The design was set on foot by Messrs. Paul and Knight, and was warmly taken up by the Town Commissioners. The street was to pass over an angle of the ground now occupied by the Temporary Church, and thence through the garden behind the Catholic Church. It was discovered, however, that the Commissioners, owing to an omission in their Act of Parliament, had no power to carry out the undertaking, and the project was abandoned.

1858. January. Capt. Berkeley, M.P., gazetted to the Hon. Colonelcy of the Royal South Gloucester Militia, in the room of his uncle, the late Lord Fitzhardinge. In the *Gazette* of January 15th, Lieut. Colonel Newman was appointed Colonel-Commandant of the Regiment.

1858. January. Rev. G. Butler, M.A., appointed Vice-Principal of Cheltenham College.

1858. January 7. News received at Cheltenham of the arrival at Calcutta, on the 19th November, of Sir W. Russel, Bart., in command of the 7th Hussars.

1858. January 7. Muffled peal at the Parish Church, in memory of Gen. Havelock, the news of whose death was received this day.

1858. January. Proposal to erect a peal of eight bells at St. Luke's Church.

1858. January 14. Vestry meeting to consider a proposal for altering and enlarging the Parish Church. The principal interior alterations proposed were, to re-pew the Church and remove the organ to the north transept, and to increase the accommodation to 1264 sittings instead of 1177, as at present. The vestry sanctioned the alterations, and a considerable sum was subscribed towards the expense; but, on the Incumbent and the committee going to Gloucester for a faculty, they met with so much opposition from pew owners that the design was abandoned.

1858. February. Contract for the Cheltenham branch sewers given to Messrs. Tomlinson and Harpur, for £12,740. The highest estimate was £26,500 and the lowest £9,600.

1858. February 24. Opening of Cheltenham College Chapel, with a sermon by the Bishop of the Diocese.

1858. March 12. Death of James Agg Gardner, Esq., Lord of the Manor, aged 54. He was son of the late Major Agg, H.E.I.C.S., who for many years resided at Hewlett's near this town, and was one of our local magistrates. Major Agg married a sister of the late John Gardner Esq., the wealthy banker and brewer, and by her had issue three sons—W. J. Agg, Esq., the present possessor of Hewlett's; the late Thomas Agg, Esq., whose widow yet resides among us; and James Agg, Esq., whose death we now record. On the death of Mr. Gardner, in February, 1836, Mr. J. Agg assumed the surname of his deceased relative, and, at the same time, became possessed of much of Mr. Gardner's property. He married, on October 16th, 1844, Miss E. Northey, daughter of W. H. Northey, Esq., of Oving House, Bucks, and niece of T. Fortescue, Esq., of Suffolk Lawn.—"Examiner," March 17. [Mr. Gardner's death evoked a deep feeling of sorrow among all classes in Cheltenham, among whom he was held in the highest respect. So great was the estimation in which he was held that his fellow townsmen, of all shades of political opinion, joined in testifying their respect for his memory by a public funeral. Special allusion was also made to the sad event at most of the Churches, and at the Congregational and other Dissenting places of worship.]

1858. March 15. Eclipse of the sun, visible in Cheltenham. By a curious coincidence, the first lesson in the morning service for that day was the account of the sun and moon standing still at the bidding of Joshua.

1858. March 16. Elopement of a gallant officer with the daughter of a gallant colonel. The young lady set fire to the window curtains of her room, and, in the confusion which ensued, made her escape from the house; and was duly married at Walcot Church, Bath, before her gallant parent had discovered her whereabouts.

1858. March 21. Sacrament at St. Gregory's Catholic Church, when the Hon. and Right Rev. Dr. Clifford, titular Bishop of Clifton, administered the holy communion to about 300 members of the congregation.

1858. March 24. Much excitement caused in Cheltenham by a report that the Emperor of the French had been assassinated. It appeared that a telegram was received of the result of the University boat race, in which was the passage, "the Emperor shot a-head." By some mistake the words were read, and the news disseminated, as "the Emperor shot dead."

1858. March 25. Presentation of a piece of plate, value 100 guineas, to the Rev. W. Dobson, Principal of the College, by the masters and assistant masters.



1858. March. Proposal to erect a memorial window to the memory of the late Mr. Gardner in the Parish Church. The window was erected as proposed, and represents the appropriate story of the Good Samaritan.

1858. April 7. Extensive robbery of Mr. Moses, pawnbroker, 172, High Street. The thieves took 150 gold and silver watches, 300 wedding rings, 20 ounces of old gold, large quantities of silver plate, and other valuables, to the amount of seven or eight hundred pounds. No trace could be obtained of the thieves, nor was any of the property ever recovered.

1858. April. Accounts received of the death of Lieut. Power, late a pupil of Cheltenham College, at a tiger hunt in India. Power attacked a huge tiger with great gallantry, but, his attendants running away, the brute seized the poor fellow and shook him like a dog worrying vermin. When assistance arrived, Lieut. Power was only able to exclaim, "I am dying," and instantly expired.

1858. May 4. Death of Mr. Charles Fowler, for many years one of the leading physicians of the town. Mr. Fowler had retired from practice for some time, a disease of the brain having incapacitated him for the active duties of his profession. On his retirement an address, numerously signed, was presented to him, the document being enclosed in a casket of exquisite design and elaborate workmanship, made expressly for the occasion. It was formed of solid rosewood, richly ornamented with flagee work and silver, having on a silver plate a copy of the address and appropriate inscription. It was surmounted by a statuette group in frosted silver, being a facsimile of the "Good Samaritan" standing in the vestibule of the Cheltenham Hospital, of the medical staff of which institution Mr. Fowler was for many years the senior member. The value of the testimonial presented with the address was nearly £1,700, about £1,500 of which was invested for Mr. Fowler's benefit. The remainder (deducting about sixty guineas for the cost of the casket) was enclosed in the drawer containing the address and signatures.

1858. May 16. Presentation of a tankard and purse of 200 sovereigns to Harry Ayris, for 25 years huntsman to the late Lord Fitzhardinge. The testimonial was raised by gentlemen hunting the Cheltenham country, on the occasion of the Berkeley hounds being withdrawn from the district. The "Examiner," in recording the presentation, says—"The precise date when the Berkeley fox-hounds were established cannot be fixed. Even so far back as the time of William the Conqueror, the Berkeley family hunted with as much ardour as they do now. Smith, in his MSS., refers to the time 'when Lord Berkeley kept thirty huntsmen, in tawney coats, and his hounds at the village of Charing (now Charing Cross, in the middle of London), and hunted in that vicinity.' What they hunted, however, does not clearly appear: we should suppose other than foxes."

1858. May 16. This (Sunday) morning about eleven o'clock, a storm of terrific violence, though of short duration, passed over the town. In many houses windows were blown in, and looking glasses and other furniture hurled about the rooms. At Arle Cottage, on the Tewkesbury Road, the lightning struck the roof, and passed from room to room in the most strange manner. A chimney was knocked down, a window and frame carried bodily into the room, the doors of a wardrobe cut open, as from the blow of a hatchet, the flooring was in several places torn up, and solid masses of brickwork and masonry were cracked and splintered in all directions. The inmates of the house escaped in an almost miraculous manner. Mr Glassing and a lodger, who were sitting in a room down stairs, escaped unhurt. Mrs. Glassing was dressing before a looking-glass in her bedroom: the glass was shattered to pieces, but she herself escaped uninjured. A nephew, who was ill in an adjoining room, had his bed covered by a complete avalanche of the *debris* of the building. On his removal to the

Hospital, it was found that a piece of flesh, three inches in length, had been removed from his shoulder; and, imbedded in the wound, a small piece of his shirt was found. His face, chest, arms, and abdomen were much grazed, and one eye completely closed, the loss of the sight being at first apprehended. Fortunately, he recovered ultimately, without any permanent injury.

1858. May 19. Mrs. Hewson, wife of Dr. Hewson, of Warwick House, committed suicide by poison. Deceased had been but lately married to Dr. Hewson, and committed the act in a fit of insanity.

1858. May 31. Sudden death of Mr. C. F. Wickes, for many years lessee of the Pittville and Montpellier Spas

1858. May 31. The "Hereford Times" reports the festivities which took place to-day at Brierly, near Leominster, to celebrate the coming of age of Edward Dangerfield, jun., Esq., son of Edward Dangerfield, Esq., of Cheltenham. Mr. Dangerfield had recently purchased the Brierly Estates, and a number of the tenants—Mr. S. Griffiths, who farms 400 acres, Mrs. Coates, Mrs. Tipton, and others—entertained the whole of the tenants and labourers to May games, and a substantial repast in honour of the majority of the "young squire."

1858. June 9. The "Examiner" of this day records the fact, as proving the healthiness of the town, that the Trinitarian Benefit Society, of 408 members, had, at this time, only three on the sick list, and further, that the society had not lost a single member by death since the month of December, 1856.

1858. June 17. Thunder storm. St. Margaret's, the residence of Captain Smith, struck by the lightning, and much damaged; and a young lady, Miss Boteler, standing at a window at Monson Villa, struck down and rendered insensible.

1858. June 24. Presentation to Mr. Charles Allen, the huntsman, for many years a leading character of the Cheltenham Stag Hunt.

1858. July 7. Ceremony of mounting the Russian guns opposite the Queen's Hotel. Admiral Berkeley, Col. Berkeley, M.P., Mr. G. Russell, High Bailiff, Mr. Tarrt, and others addressed the people, and a number of Crimean men, resident in the town, took part in the celebration.

1858. July 8. Vestry meeting, on the application of Mr. Parsonage to stop up a footpath near the Christ Church Schools. It was afterwards discovered that there was no power, under the Commissioners' Act, to stop up or divert a footpath. Mr. Parsonage, in consequence, attempted on his own authority to divert the path; but his attempt being resisted, after some days' fighting, during which obstructions were continually put up over the disputed path and as often forcibly removed, the attempt was abandoned, and matters allowed to remain *in statu quo*.

1858. August 25. News arrived of the great victory by Sir Hope Grant over the Sepoys at Nawabgunge. Sir W. Russell was present with the 7th Hussars, and behaved with great gallantry. In his despatches, in drawing attention to particular officers, the Major-General mentions "Major Sir William Russell, whose gallantry in leading the charge of the 7th Hussars is deserving of the highest praise." Sir William's valet, in writing to his friends in Cheltenham, says—"All the field force cheered Sir William after his gallant charges. Please to let her ladyship and Miss Russell know of it."

1858. September 14. The Lord Chancellor in Cheltenham.—Lord and Lady Chelmsford, with the Hon. Captain Thesiger, and the Hon. Miss Thesiger, arrived in Cheltenham on Saturday last from Malvern on a visit to Lord de Saumarez, at Montpellier Lodge. His Lordship, during his visit, has made an inspection of the College and its beautiful Chapel, and in other respects made himself acquainted with our locality. Yesterday (Tuesday), he lunched at Southam, the seat of the Right Hon. the Earl of Ellenborough, and in a few days

will, we understand, proceed to London to take leave of his son, an officer in the Enniskillen Dragoons, who is about to start for India. "Examiner," Sept. 8.

1858. September. Memorial window erected in St. Peter's Church, in memory of the daughter of the Rev. W. Hodgson, Incumbent.

1858. September 17. Arrival of the Yeomanry for their usual eight days' training. Among the officers was Lieutenant Lord Raglan, a relative of the Duke of Beaufort, and son of the ever-to-be-lamented Commander-in-Chief in the Crimea.

1858. October 5. Remarkable appearance of the great comet. The star Arcturus in the Constellation Bootes visible, twinkling in a most beautiful manner, through the tail of the comet.

1858. October 11. The new magistrates office opened at the Clarence Hotel. These spacious premises were purchased by the county, and altered by Messrs. Broom and Son, builders, so as to form a place for the Magistrates to discharge the important functions of their office, and also for the purpose of a Police Barracks. It was originally one of the largest hotels in the town, and was named the Clarence from the circumstance of Her Majesty Queen Adelaide having sojourned there when Duchess of Clarence.

1858. October 13. Letter in the "Examiner" throwing out the first suggestion for erecting drinking fountains in Cheltenham. The suggestion was followed up, and a memorial, signed by the Incumbent and Churchwardens of the Parish Church, the Rev. Cannon Boyd and several other ministers, and a large number of laymen, presented to the Commissions in favour of the proposition.

1858. November 3. Letter in the "Examiner" suggesting the erection of a parsonage house for Christ Church.

1858. November. News arrived of the death of Captain E. Cannon, 17th Madras N.I. Captain Cannon served as Brigade Major at Cawnpore, and died from illness contracted during the mutiny. He was son of Dr. Cannon, the eminent physician of this town.

1858. November. Death of Lieutenant-General Lightfoot, for many years a resident of Cheltenham. Deceased was buried with military honours at Birmingham, a detachment of the 4th Dragoon Guards being sent by Sir Harry Smith to assist at the ceremony. The deceased General, an old Peninsular officer, had seen a good deal of service, as will be gathered from the following record contained in Hart's Army List:—"Lieut.-General Lightfoot served in Holland in 1799. Accompanied the 45th to the Peninsular in 1808, and was present at the battles of Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, and Busaco; actions of Pombal, Redinha, Condeia, and Sabugal; battle of Fuentes d'Onora, siege of Badajoz, in 1811; siege and assault of Ciudad Rodrigo, siege and assault of Badajoz (slightly wounded), battles of Salamanca, Vittoria, and the Pyrenees; attack on the lines of St. Jean de Luz, affair at Bastide, and the battle of Orthes and Toulouse (severely wounded). He has received the gold medal and two clasps for Vittoria, Pyrenees, and Toulouse; and the silver war medal with eleven clasps for the other battles and sieges." The gallant officer was Colonel of the 62nd Regiment.

1858. December 18. Severe thunderstorm. A man working at Heath's nursery was struck by the lightning and seriously injured.

1859. January 19. Grand historical fête at Sudeley Castle. The costumes were of the reign of Henry VIII., whose last wife, Queen Catherine Parr, died and was buried at this Castle.

1859. January 20. Lord Northwick died, aged 89. In the following July, owing to the noble Lord having died intestate, the collection of pictures at Thirlestaine house, which his lordship had spent a lifetime in gathering together, were sold by auction and lost to the town.

1859. January 25. Grand banquet at the Queen's Hotel in commemoration

of the centenary of the birthday of the Poet Burns, Sir A. Ramsay, Bart., in the chair.

1859. January 28. Great reform meeting at the Town Hall, Mr. Tarrt in the chair. Colonel Berkeley, M.P., was present, and addressed the meeting.

1859. February 2. Opening of the Baker Street Mission School's with a public tea meeting. In 1861 these schools gave instruction to 270 children. In the same year, on the occasion of the baptism of a son and heir of W. N. Skillicorne, Esq. who has always taken a warm interest in the schools, the children and their parents were entertained to a tea at that gentleman's expense, on which occasion the infant was presented with a handsome silver cup purchased by subscriptions among the children and their friends, and bearing the following inscription:—  
"Presented to Master W. N. Skillicorne, on the day of his christening, by 200 children, belonging to the Baker Street Mission Schools, as a slight token of the high esteem entertained for his father, the President of the Institution. March 18, 1861."

1859. February 3. Suicide of Baron Philibert de Chastellain at the Eight Bells' Inn, by shooting himself in the stomach. Some monetary disarrangements, added to a love affair, were believed to be the cause of the rash act.

1859. February 4. The Board of Directors appointed the Rev. H. Highton, M.A., to the vacant office of Principal of the Cheltenham College.

1859. February 9th. Opening of the New British Schools in Dunally Street: present, Sir Maurice Berkeley, K.C.B., Lady Charlotte Berkeley, Col. Berkeley, M.P., W. M. Tarrt, Esq., Rev. Dr. Brown, &c. The school rooms are in the English domestic style of the fifteenth century; they comprise a school and two class rooms for 450 boys, a school and two class rooms for girls, and a teachers' residence; architect, Mr. H. Dangerfield, the late Borough Surveyor. The estimate for the works was £1,972, and the internal fittings increased the amount to £2,875. Towards this Government gave a grant of £1,350, and the residue was raised by voluntary contributions. "One of the scholars, Thomas R. Jackson, has obtained the highest prize awarded by the Gloucestershire Prize Scheme Association at their recent annual examination, and another pupil, William Clarke, has also obtained another prize, given by the Dean of Hereford, on political economy. Altogether twenty-seven prizes have been gained by scholars, a circumstance that reflects the highest credit on Mr. Moore, the master."  
"Examiner," September 21, 1859 Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools reports that "Mr. Moore exerts a most beneficial influence over his scholars, and has taken especial pains to secure the co-operation of their parents. The result is that the tone of his school is admirable, the regularity of attendance unique, the organization excellent and always in full force, and the instruction yearly increasing in completeness, as well as in the universality of its diffusion among the boys." At the annual examination in October, 1861, the chair was taken by Sir Wm. Russell, Bart., M.P.

1859. March 21. A Good Day's Work.—The gallant member for Cheltenham, Colonel F. W. F. Berkeley, was out with his father's hounds on Monday. The pack left the Berkeley road station by special train in the morning, arriving at Cheltenham at about a quarter past nine. They were then taken thirteen miles to the covert side, and after the conclusion of the day's sport the gallant Colonel made the best of his way back to Cheltenham, and leaving here by the 6.30 train for London was enabled to be in his place in the House long before the adjournment of the debate on the Reform Bill, and in time for any unexpected division which might have taken place on Lord John Russell's amendment. The gallant Colonel thus accomplished what, we imagine, will generally be considered a pretty fair day's work." "Examiner," March 24.

1859. March 25. Died at Cheltenham, aged 62, Mr. Charles Hale Jessop, for 40 years proprietor of the nursery gardens which bear his name.

1859. March. News received in Cheltenham that Sir W. Russell had left Calcutta on his return from India.

1859. April 14. Complimentary dinner to C. Cregoe Colmore, Esq., Master of the Cotswold Hunt, at the Plough Hotel—Col. Berkeley, M.P., in the chair.

1859. May 1. Appointed by her Majesty to be observed as a day of humiliation and thanksgiving on the termination of the Indian Mutiny.

1859. May 8. Died, at The Elms, Cheltenham, aged 78, Lady Rebecca Ricketts, widow of Admiral Sir Robert Tristram Ricketts, Bart., and mother of Sir Cornwallis Ricketts, Bart., and Colonel St. Vincent Ricketts. The funeral took place on the 17th at Swindon Church—the service being read by the Rev. A. Boyd.

1859. May 10. Died suddenly, at his residence, Hewlett Lodge, Francis Price, Esq., aged 63.

1859. Death of Mr. W. Hadley, son of Mrs. Hadley, proprietor of the "Cheltenham Journal."

1859. May. Earl Ducie, as Lord Lieutenant, issued a circular recommending the formation of volunteer rifle corps throughout the county. On June 2nd, meetings were held at the Old Wells to initiate the volunteer movement in Cheltenham. The Earl of Ellenborough was present, and addressed the meeting.

1859. May 17. Died, after two days' illness, Mr. Richard Bunson, well known as lodge keeper at the Pittville Spa.

1859. June 3. The Town Commissioners, at their meeting this day, discussed the proposition of a new public cemetery for Cheltenham.

1859. June. Appointment of the Rev. Canon Boyd, for 17 years minister of Christ Church, to the Insubency of St. Mary's, Paddington.

1859. June. Resignation and flight of Dr. Humphreys, Head Master of the Grammar School.

1859. June. Retirement of the Rev. W. Dobson. Principal of Cheltenham College. A large sum having been subscribed for the purchase of a testimonial, Mr. Dobson selected that the money should be applied to the purchase of a "phaeton and horses or a pony carriage and ponies."

1859. June 29. The Victoria Cross. The "Examiner" of this date says—"It gives us great pleasure to record the confirmation by her Majesty of a grant by which Lieut. Farquharson, of the 42nd Regiment, nephew of Mr. Farquharson, of Nelson House, in this town, is decorated with the Victoria Cross, as a memento of an act of bravery performed by him during the late mutiny in India. It is described as follows: "Lieut. Francis Edward Henry Farquharson, for conspicuous bravery when engaged before Lucknow, on the 9th March, 1856, in having led a portion of his company, stormed a bastion mounting two guns, and spiked the guns, by which the advanced position held during the night of the 9th of March, was rendered secure from the fire of the artillery. Lieutenant Farquharson was severely wounded while holding an advanced position on the morning of the 10th of March."

1859. July. Return from India of Henry Mills Cannon Esq., eldest son of Dr. Cannon, ordered home from ill health, contracted in discharging the duties of his profession, during the war of the rebellion.

1859. July 19. The Rev. Gordon Calthrop commenced a series of open air preaching in Sherborne-street.

1859. July 31. Extraordinary hurricane in Cheltenham. The day had been unusually close and sultry; when about 5 o'clock in the evening the gathering clouds gave indications of an approaching storm. Suddenly, it appeared as though the flood gates of the Heavens had been opened and the rain descended,

not in drops, but as though poured bodily out of some reservoir above. The storm was accompanied by terrific peals of thunder and gusts of wind which seemed to blow from all parts of the compass at once. The streets were speedily flooded, water traps and drain pipes refused for a time their salutary offices, cellars became full, house tops were saturated and roofs penetrated, while the spouting of ordinary dwellings bubbled and gurgled under the pressure of the unusual flow. In the midst of this terrific down-pour, a hurricane swept over a part of the town, committing an amount of devastation which must have been seen to be believed. Commencing at the Workhouse garden it swept over a tract of ground about 50 yards wide, sweeping away everything moveable and prostrating every thing permanent which stood in its way. In the Plough Gardens pigstyes were unroofed, walls prostrated in an instant, garden frames sent flying through the air, chimneys blown down, and trees in every stage of growth and loaded with their store of Summer fruits uprooted and laid prostrate on the ground. Passing from thence, the storm swept through the wood of Mr. L. Griffiths, of Marle Hill, making a clean breach among the trees, which large and small were thrown down by hundreds in the course of a few minutes. In one place a cumbrous wooden house was overturned bodily and one of its windows carried spinning through the air a distance of 300 yards. At another spot a garden wall was laid flat along its entire length and a slaughter-house of Mr. Warner completely dismantled, Mr. Warner's two sons having a narrow escape. At another point, in the garden of Mr. Hooper, confectioner, every thing in the shape of a tree or shrub was uprooted and destroyed. But it was in Mr. Griffiths's wood that the storm appears to have reached the climax of its fury; trees were blown down in every direction, large limbs were sent careering through the air as though they were mere wisps of straw, while one stately elm, the monarch of the grove—measuring 70 feet in length, 25 feet across the roots, and 18 feet in circumference of the trunk,—was overturned as completely as the young saplings by which it was surrounded. The damage done in the space of a few minutes it was impossible to estimate, and no one could have believed that a mere wind could have produced such results without they had been eye-witnesses of its havoc and desolation. At Miss Bartholomew's, milliner, in the Promenade, the water penetrated the roof and poured into the show rooms in a regular cascade, doing damage to the extent of nearly £300. The duration of the storm did not exceed half-an-hour, and the weather cleared off within the next few minutes, and resulted in a calm, beautiful, and peaceful, evening.

1859. July 21. Sale by auction of the wines of the late J. A. Gardner, Esq., ports of 1820 vintage sold for 134s., and of 1834 vintage 140s. to 186s.; cherries fetched from 86s. to 140s.; and a prime lot of brandy 97s. per dozen.

1859. August 3. Letter under this date from the Rev. E. Walker to his parishioners, announcing the closing of the Parish Church as unfit for public worship. The letter set forth that the church being now closed it would be necessary to erect a Temporary Church for the accommodation of 1,400 or 1,500 persons: that it would "be impossible ever again to make the church in its present form available for the purposes of public worship;" that the Incumbent could "never consent to officiate, or to allow any other person to officiate, therein, while the present galleries are standing;" that unless the owners of facultyed pews would abandon their rights, the churchwardens would be compelled by law to demand a church-rate for rebuilding the edifice; and that if a church-rate should be refused, then "the present sacred and time hallowed building and the site on which it stands" would have to be abandoned, and "a new church on a new site" be erected by private subscription. The cause of the issuing of this letter and the events to which it led, may be thus stated. In the month of July, the pew-holders in the South aisle of the church had agreed among themselves at

their own cost to rearrange and modernize their sittings. On the pews being taken down and the flooring removed, it was found that the vaults below were open or partially so to the church above, so that the effluvia arising from the dead could not but contaminate the air breathed by the living. This discovery created a very painful feeling among the parishioners; the proposed alterations were immediately abandoned, and a resolution came to, to close the church until the vaults could be properly filled up. It was further ascertained that the pillars which supported the galleries were so loose as to induce the Incumbent to fear that the galleries themselves could never be made sufficiently secure, so as to induce the congregation again to assemble; and that the attempt to assemble them until the galleries were made secure would be a wanton imperiling of human life; hence his proposition for their removal. The buttresses of the tower were also found to be cracked, thus necessitating a careful survey of this part of the structure and its thorough reparation. But on the church being closed, the difficulties of the "situation" were found to be almost insurmountable. The galleries are, for the most part, private property: that is, they consist of pews "facultyed" to certain houses, and it would be necessary before their removal, to obtain the consent of every individual possessing a faculty pew. This could not be done; vestry meeting after vestry meeting was held, committees appointed, and plan after plan suggested and rejected. The Town Commissioners were applied to to concrete the area of the church at the public expense; but that body, although willing to defray the expense of concreting, would not incur the responsibility of removing the pews. In this state of affairs, there appeared every probability that the church would remain permanently closed, and the fabric itself be allowed to go to decay. At this juncture, Mr. G. E. Williams pointed out that, under a clause in the recent Burial Act, the Secretary of State had power to interfere, where a church or chapel was in a state dangerous to the *health* of the worshippers, and to order the building to be placed in a sanitary state, and the expense to be defrayed out of the public poor's rate. Mr. Williams communicated his discovery to Mr. G. Norman, who with him took a deep interest in the re-opening of the building; and Mr. N., in conjunction with Mr. William Boodle, at once obtained an introduction to the Secretary of State, through the good offices of Colonel Berkeley, the member for the borough. On obtaining an interview with Mr. Waddingham, Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Norman prepared and signed a memorial setting forth the facts of the case, and by this means Dr. Holland, the Sanitary Officer of the Burial Board was directed to proceed to Cheltenham and inspect the building, and to make his report to the Home Office. Dr. Holland visited Cheltenham on the 7th of October, and was met at the church by Mr. Hasell, Mr. Fisher, Mr. George Russell, Mr. Harford, Mr. Boodle, the Churchwardens, and other parishioners, and with them made a thorough inspection of the building. In due course he made his report to the Secretary of State, and the result was the following "Order in Council," which was published in the "London Gazette" of the 24th of January, 1860:—"That the vaults and graves in the Parish Church of Cheltenham be forthwith filled up with dry earth mixed with charcoal, and the whole floor covered with a layer of concrete not less than nine inches thick, as completely as it is practicable without interfering with the future repairs of the church." This "order" was at once acted upon by the churchwardens; the pews and flooring were removed, the vaults filled up, the area of the church concreted, the pillars of the galleries supported, and the defects in the tower substantially repaired. The pews and sittings were then replaced as they had stood before, and the church was re-opened for Divine worship on the 8th of March, 1861, the Rev. E. Walker, Incumbent, preaching the opening sermon. The amount levied on the Poor-rate was £600, and it is only an act of justice towards the Dissenters

of Cheltenham to add that no objection was ever raised on their part to this expense being incurred or the money paid. On the contrary, before Mr. Norman put the machinery of the Home Office in motion he consulted with the leading members of several Dissenting congregations, to know if any objection would be raised to an expenditure of £500 for such a purpose. The answer he received from each was to the effect that there would be no objection; and that any sacrifice they could make, except the sacrifice of principle in the imposition of a Church-rate, they would gladly make, in order to put an end to the scandal of the Parish Church being allowed to remain closed and to fall into decay. This understanding was carried out in the most honourable manner; and when Churchmen are inclined to reflect upon Dissenters for their hostility to Church-rates it will be well to bear in mind the forbearance which the great Dissenting body of the town manifested in 1860 in reference to the restoration of the Parish Church of Cheltenham.

1859. August 11. Sudden death, from rupture of a blood vessel, of George Schonswar, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and a Magistrate for the Cheltenham district.

1859. August 24. Presentation to Mrs. Nicholson, wife of Mr. John Nicholson, Postmaster of Cheltenham, of a portrait of her husband, painted by subscription among a number of his fellow-townsmen as a token of respect.

1859. August 27. Sudden death of the Rev. J. E. Riddle, for nearly 20 years minister of St. Philip's Church. The Rev. gentleman had composed his sermon for the following morning, and laid the manuscript on the library table. He afterwards joined in the family devotion, but almost immediately after retiring to his room was seized with a fit, in which he instantly expired. Mr. Riddle was one of the best Hebrew scholars of his day; had published several standard works; was the author of the well-known "Riddle's Scripture History;" and as a man and a clergyman was universally respected.

1859. August 27. John Tinsley, a student in the Training College, drowned while bathing in the Severn at Wainload Hill. His remains were interred in Swindon Churchyard, the funeral being attended by the staff of the College and a number of his fellow pupils.

1859. September 1. Mr. James Downing elected Chairman and Mr. William Hasell Vice-Chairman of the Cheltenham Board of Guardians.

1859. September 7. It was stated that the storage of water for the supply of Cheltenham in the Company's five reservoirs was on the 12th of August 14,194,803 gallons; that the daily supply from the springs (during the short season) was 180,720 gallons, and the daily supply to the inhabitants 204,395 gallons.

1859. September 10. Died, aged 61, Capt. Sumner, J.P. for the county of Surrey, and father of the lady of Colonel Berkeley, M.P. for Cheltenham.

1859. September 19. "Musical Record" first published; amalgamated with the "Cheltenham Times," January 4th, 1861.

1859. October 6. Married, at the Parish Church, Toddington, the Hon. Henrietta Emma Tracey, third daughter of Lord and Lady Sudeley, to Captain Maude, of the Indian Army, and nephew of Lord Viscount Hawarden. The incident is noticeable as being the first occasion for the last two hundred and thirty years of a daughter of the House of Tracey being married at her own parish church.

1859. October 15 and 19. Mrs. Mair, a grand-daughter of Mrs. Siddons, gave readings from "Romeo and Juliet" and "Julius Cæsar" at the Literary Institution.

1859. October 17. Commencement of the tower of St. Gregory's Catholic Church. The spire is to be 208 feet in height, or 41 feet higher than that of the



Parish Church.—“The Entente Cordiale. Yesterday men were busily employed carting the earth excavated from the site of the new tower of the Catholic Church, to make good the ground in front of its Protestant rival in Clarence Street.”—“Examiner,” October 19.

1859. October 25. Wreck of the Royal Charter. Among those who perished was Mr. John Maule, formerly of this town. The body was washed on shore some weeks afterwards, and being identified by numerous articles found upon it, it was brought to Cheltenham, and buried in the Cemetery on the 30th of November in the presence of a large number of persons. Thomas Cormick, the steward of the vessel, who was fortunately saved, was also a Cheltenham man, having been for some years butler in the family of Miss Barry, of Imperial Square. Cormick lost in the wreck all the money he had saved, £30, and his clothes for a six months' voyage; and a subscription was raised in the town through the good offices of Mr. Russell to make up his loss.

1859. November 3. Opening of the New Temporary Church, Clarence Street. This church, built of iron and wood, was erected by subscription, to provide a place for the congregation of the Parish Church, during the closing of that edifice, as previously explained. On the Parish Church being re-opened, it was found that the congregation was sufficient to fill both buildings: and the “Temporary” Church, therefore, continues in existence after the occurrences which originally called it into being have passed away.

1859. November 8. Tea meeting to celebrate the clearing off the debt on the Congregational Church and Schools, on which £10,000 had been expended during the last few years. A handsome timepiece was presented on the occasion to Mr. Charles Field as a token of his indefatigable exertion in clearing off the debt.

1859. November 9. Death of Mr. G. T. F. Smith, well known in Cheltenham as prophesying the state of the weather, and foretelling individual and national destinies from planetary influences. He was a great sufferer from asthma, and his death occurred at the age of 65.

1859. November. Appointment. The Rev. J. Douglas Middleton, M.A., late Scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and formerly Assistant Master of Cheltenham College, has been appointed by the Incumbent, the Rev. Archibald Boyd, to the curacy of St. James's, Paddington.

1859. November 15. Mr. John Goulder, aged 84, and Mr. Samuel Page, 83, well known inhabitants of the town, shot a pigeon match at five birds each, the junior youth being declared the winner. “It may be interesting to state that both these veteran sportsmen are ‘town’s born.’ Goulder was born at the ‘Eight Bells,’ and was for many years stud groom to the Duke of Gordon, from whom he received as a present the gun which did him such good service in the above match. His opponent Page served under the immortal Nelson, and was present at the cutting off of the French flotilla in Boulogne Harbour in 1801.”—“Examiner.”

1859. November 22. Presentation of an address with nearly 1000 signatures to the Rev. Canon Boyd on his final leave-taking with his congregation. The address was enclosed in an appropriate casket and accompanied by a large sum of money, subscribed by Mr. Boyd's friends in Cheltenham.

1859. November 30. Foundation stone laid of the tower of the new Catholic Church.

1859. Returns issued, showing that out of 7000 in-patients admitted during 20 years in Cheltenham Hospital, only 350 (or about 5 per cent.) died while under treatment. Of 136,544 Dispensary patients, only 2,507 died, or 1.8 per cent. on the number admitted.

1859. December. The weather being very severe, subscriptions were raised:

for the unemployed poor, who were set to tariff work on the footpaths; the first time since 1846—13 years.

1859. December 15. Died, at his residence, Apsley Villa, Pittville, Robert Bamford, Esq., aged 67, a Magistrate for this district.

1860. January. Appointment of the Rev. J. F. Fenn, Vicar of Stolfold, Bedfordshire, to the Incumbency of Christ Church.

1860. January 5. Sir William Russell, Bart., qualified as a magistrate for the Cheltenham District. On the 21st the gallant Baronet made his first appearance on the Cheltenham Bench, being introduced by the senior magistrate present, C. Ll. Harford, Esq.

1860. January 5. First Funeral of a Cheltenham Rifleman. The remains of Mr. W. Kingsley, Drill-Sergeant in the Seventh Company, were interred at the cemetery with military honours.

1860. February. Testimonial to the Rev. C. H. Bromby, Incumbent of St. Paul's, subscribed for by members of the congregation. On being informed of what was intended, Mr. Bromby at once declined any personal gift, but expressed his desire that the amount raised should be devoted to the restoration of the organ, so that it might stand as a public and lasting memento of the affection which exists between the congregation and their pastor.

1860. February. Monument erected in St. Philip's Church to the memory of the Rev. J. E. Riddle. The monument consists of a large slab of veined white marble, resting on a deep moulding, and bearing a suitable inscription. A very beautiful medallion, in statuary marble, of the Angel in the Apocalypse surmounts the inscription, which is a worthy tribute to the qualities of the deceased in his private and public character.—"Examiner," Feb. 22.

1860. February 21 to 25. Great sale of effects at Fulwood Park, by Messrs. Engall and Sanders. Among the wines, 1834 Port fetched from 116s. to 147s.; the Sherries varying from 84s. to 110s.

1860. February 22. First appearance in the "Examiner" of the STRAY NOTES, by "The Man about Town."

1860. February Mr. W. F. McDonell, of the Bengal Civil Service, son of Eneas McDonell, Esq., of Pittville House, Cheltenham, has just been honoured by her Majesty with the Victoria Cross, for his great coolness and bravery on the 30th July, 1857, during the retreat of the British troops from Arrah, in having climbed, under an incessant fire, outside the boat in which he and several soldiers were, up to the rudder, and, with considerable difficulty, cut through the lashing which secured it to the side of the boat. On the lashing being cut the boat obeyed her helm, and thus thirty-five European soldiers escaped certain death.—*London Gazette*, Feb. 17. The well-won honour, by which her Majesty has been pleased to mark her appreciation of the services of Mr. McDonell, must be exceedingly gratifying to his relations and friends in Cheltenham, where at our noble College he received his education; as did also his brother, Lieutenant T. M. McDonell, of the 6th Madras Light Infantry.—*Looker-On*. The Directors of Cheltenham College, at their meeting, ordered the names of those pupils who may from time to time be honoured with the Victoria Cross, to be placed conspicuously in the large schoolroom of the Civil and Military Department. The first of these names will be those of Mr. W. F. McDonell and Captain A. C. Boyle, of the 78th Highlanders, the latter of whom also received his education within its walls.—"Examiner."

1860. March 7. Volunteer officers at Court. The officers of the Cotswold Volunteer Rifle Corps—Captain Wood, Lieutenant Swiny, Ensign Speer, and Dr. Eves, the latter the hon. surgeon to the members—and Captain Robert Dwarries Gibney, 7th Company, present to-day at her Majesty's Reception of the Volunteer Officers of the Kingdom.

1860. March. First drinking fountain erected for the use of the public by the Improvement Commissioners. The cost of erection was £46 16s. 7d. It is situate at the High-street end of White Hart-row. A second public fountain was erected in the same year at the rear of the Market-place, at the sole expense of a resident benevolent lady—Miss Carrington. They were both erected from designs by the Borough Surveyor, Mr. H. Dangerfield.

1860. March. Miss Muloch, the popular authoress of "John Halifax," "Life for Life," &c., spent some time this month on a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Dobell, Detmore House, Charlton Kings.

1860. March 20. Mr. W. E. Williams, formerly in the employ of the Cheltenham Gas Company appointed by the Quarter Sessions Inspector of Gas Meters for this county, under the recent Act of Parliament.

1860. March. From a return presented to Parliament at this time it appears that the number of electors for Cheltenham in 1832 was 919, and in 1859, 2,359, being an increase of 1,440 since the passing of the Reform Bill.

1860. March 22. Sale by auction, by Mr. Sweeting, of the copyright, file, good-will, plant, stock, and printing materials of the *Cheltenham Chronicle* for £315.

1860. April 4. Distressing accident to Mr. Hanks, Manor Farm, Charlton Abbots. Mr. Hanks, his son Thomas, and the Messrs. Beckingsale, of this town were going out for an hour's rabbit shooting, when the gun of one of the last-named gentlemen was accidentally discharged, and the contents entering the head and neck of Mr. Hanks, junior, aged 17, caused his instant death. The occurrence was pronounced by the coroner's jury to be purely accidental.

1860. April 7. Death of a character. A sporting character, well-known as "Billy Holtham," died suddenly at the Berkeley Arms, Albion-street.

1860. April 7. Daring attempt at burglary at the residence of Thomas Kimber, Esq., 41, Clarence-square. The thieves had nearly effected an entrance to the premises when the housemaid, Susan Trescowthick, hearing a noise, jumped out of bed and rushing to the front door called out "Thieves!" "Police!" with all her might. The robbers on the outcry being raised beat a hasty retreat without their anticipated booty, there being a large quantity of plate in the house, a fact which no doubt they were well aware of.

1860. April 9. Visit of the Stroud Volunteers to Cheltenham.

1860. April 11. The "Examiner" of this date contains the following obituary announcements:—J. C. Symons, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Schools, and formerly editor of the "Examiner," who died at Malvern, April 7, aged 50; Mrs. Perry, of Avondole House, (daughter of the late Lieut.-Col. Baron), who died on the 8th; Thomas Barber, Esq., who died at his residence, Suffolk-square, on the 6th; and Mr. A. H. Hamilton, formerly a newspaper reporter well-known in Cheltenham.

1860. April 12. The *Times* of this date announced that the First Lord of the Admiralty had presented a naval cadetship to the son of the late J. C. Symons, Esq., in recognition of the services of his father in the cause of education.

1860. April 14. Death of Fulwar Craven, Esq. We have to record the death of another of the notables of this neighbourhood—Fulwar Craven, Esq., of Brockhampton Park, which event occurred on Saturday last, the 14th instant, in the 78th year of his age. Deceased was for many years a leading character in the fashionable and sporting doings of his day, and although for the last seven or eight years he has resided principally at his country seat, yet for the forty or fifty years antecedent to that time, his well-known figure and equipage were as familiar to the *habitués* of the High-street as the High-street itself. His death severs another connecting link between Cheltenham as it is to-day, and as it was in the olden time.—"Examiner," April 18.

1860. April 17. Sermon by the Rev. W. M. Puncheon, at Wesley Chapel.

1860. April 23. Appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean at the Royal Old Wells.

1860. April 30. Sale of shop property in the High-street, by Engall and Sanders: Nos. 385 and 386, High-street, in the occupation of Mr. G. Sweeting, at a rental of £190 per annum, was "bought in" at £2,700; the Royal Library, rental £140, sold at £2,220; 382, High-street, rent £120, sold for £1,600; and three-quarters of an acre of land behind the Royal Library sold for £700.

1860. May 20. The 10th and 13th Companies Cheltenham Volunteers attended divine service at the Temporary Church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. E. Walker, Incumbent.

1860. May 23. Letter in the "Examiner" from Mr. Chas. Schreiber calling attention to a motion of Mr. Rolt to engraft upon the Reform Bill a clause giving two members to Cheltenham. Mr. Schreiber gave it as his opinion that the granting a second member would be hailed as a real boon by all who have the interest of the town at heart.

1860. May 23. Confirmation by the Bishop at the Temporary Church. The rite was administered to 706 persons—522 females and 184 males.

1860. May 30. Advertisement issued by the Churchwardens for tenders for "concreting" the area of the Parish Church. In removing the flooring two ancient stone coffins were discovered. In filling up the graves, the "Examiner" states that "in one of the vaults, that of an old and well-known inhabitant of the town who died about 20 years ago, the wood of the coffin was in a perfect state of preservation, the polish on the wood was undimmed, and the metal of the coffin plate, handles, &c., was as bright as ever."

1860. May. Much discussion was caused this month by proceedings against a number of respectable tradesmen for infringement of certain provisions of the Town Act. Mr. G. E. Williams, clerk to the commissioners, published several letters in the "Examiner" impugning the conduct of the Magistrates "as unconstitutional and illegal, as bringing the law into contempt, and unconsciously giving impunity to crime." At the petty sessions on May 15th,—present, Messrs. Hallowell, Harford, Skillicorne, Jones, and Frobisher—the Chairman read a document which he stated to be "the unanimous and deliberate sentiments of the Bench," and which contained the following paragraph "The Magistrates have since received a written communication from Mr. Williams, disavowing the intention of applying to their conduct *mala-fides*—corruption—or anything else of a dishonourable character—which is so far satisfactory—but after such a charge made so publicly, no private explanation could be accepted." "Examiner," May 16.

1860. May 30. Mr. W. Esson (son of Mr. Esson, manager of the Cheltenham gas works) formerly a pupil of the Grammar School obtained an open Fellowship at Merton College. The "Examiner" adds, Mr. Esson obtained the Junior Mathematical Scholarship in 1857; and last year was awarded a first class in mathematics, whereby he became entitled to the Whitfield prize of £50, given to every member of St. John's College, not being on the foundation, who shall be placed in the first class at the public examinations. In the last Lent term Mr. Esson also gained the Senior Mathematical Scholarship.

1860. June 7. Count Frederic Metaxa, aged 13, (son of Count Baptiste Metaxa) obtained a naval cadetship. He was formerly a pupil at the Cheltenham Juvenile College, and, on his appointment, was understood to be the youngest officer in Her Majesty's service.

1860. June 9. Mrs. Hyson, wife of a poor man living at 47, Duke-street, delivered of three children at a birth. The trio of little strangers were pronounced, with their mother, to be doing well.

1860. June. Tender for erection of St. Mark's Church taken by Mr. John Acock for £2880, the building to be completed within a twelvemonth.

1860. June 21. Sale by Mr. Leach of the Arthur's Field Farm, 84 acres. It was bought by Mr. Arkell for £5950.

1860. Sudden death of Major Morgan, an officer residing for many years in Cheltenham. Deceased had just left a prayer meeting at the Rev. E. Walker's when he was seized with a fainting fit and almost immediately expired.

1860. June 28. Presentation of a candelabrum by the working men of Roehdale to their late representative Sir A. Ramsay, Bart.

1860. July 3. At the great Wimbledon rifle meeting Corporal Burgh of the Cotswold Company was one of the successful competitors, winning with 15 points one the £25 Whitworth rifles.

1860. July 4. Proposal to form a limited liability company for the purchase of the Plough Hotel, for £33,000 in £10 shares.

1860. July 13. Died, at 12, Royal Crescent, the Rev. T. F. Henney, M.A., son of the late Thomas Henney, Esq., and brother of W. Henney, Esq.

1860. July 21. Severe hail storm in Cheltenham and its neighbourhood. At "The Hewlets" nearly every flower in the gardens was destroyed. Six acres of mappolds and sweetdes were so riddled with the hail stones as to be almost destroyed, while the cocks of hay in the fields were white as snow. It is a coincidence worth recording that it was on this day twelvemonth a hurricane did so much damage in Cheltenham as recorded under that date in our "Chronological Events."

1860. August 4. Only five persons were buried in Cheltenham this week, out of a population of 40,000. The united ages of these five were 399 years, or an average of 80 years each.

1860. August 16. Sudden death of T. Leighton, Esq., solicitor, at his residence, 5, Belle Vue Place.

1860. August 25. Admiral Sir Maurice Berkeley and the Hon. Augustus Berkeley, on a visit to Colonel Ricketts, at German Cottage.

1860. September 5. The Dean of Carlisle preached at the Temporary Church.

1860. September 18. Grand Volunteer Review at Gloucester. Total number of volunteers present, 6,093.

1860. September. Final break up of the association known as "The Literary and Philosophical Institution."

1860. September 20. Laying of the foundation stone of St. Mark's Church, by the Rev. Wm. Carus, one of Simeon's trustees. The church was consecrated February 8th, 1862.

1860. September 24. Re-opening of the Ball-room, at the Assembly Rooms, after complete renovation and re-decoration, by the lessee, Mr. Buckman.

1860. October 2. Sale of the Crown Inn, High Street, by Mr. Leach. The premises were purchased by Mr. Charles Turk, maltster, for £2,200.

1860. October 5. Proposal at the Commissioners' meeting to purchase the Literary Institution building as "offices" for the Commissioners. The question was debated through several months, but ultimately the design was abandoned.

1860. October 9. Accident to Major Mortimer. While shooting in the neighbourhood of Winchcomb, the gallant Major's gun exploded, badly shattering the thumb and forefinger of the right hand.

1860. October. Appointment of the Rev. Canon Boyd to the office of Rural Dean, for that district of London which comprises the ten parishes of the important district of Paddington.

1860. October 18. Sudden death of Mr. W. H. Newman, of the firm of Newman and Lance, drapers, of this town. The Firm had announced to open

that day their enlarged premises and show rooms; the anxiety and exertion in the preparation of which, no doubt, led to Mr. Newman's death.

1860. November 20. Married, at St. Luke's Church, Miss Harriet Jane Pearson, second daughter of Lieut.-Col. Pearson, of Bays Hill Lawn, to Captain Grey, only son of Sir George Grey, and equerry to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

1860. November 23. Death of Lieut.-Col. Hamerton, at his residence, 22, Lansdown Place. Col. Hamerton entered the army in 1806, went through the Peninsular campaigns, was with Sir John Moore at Corunna, served under Wellington at Badajoz and Salamanca, where he received a wound in the thigh, which sent him home, and ultimately compelled him to leave the service shortly after the conclusion of the war.

1860. December 3. Case of Towle *versus* Boodle. An action for assault and slander, tried before the Court of Queen's Bench, Westminster. After a hearing of several hours, the jury returned a verdict on the count of slander for the defendant, and on the count of assault for the plaintiff, with one farthing damages.

1860. December 12. The new bronze coinage got into circulation in Cheltenham. The "Examiner" says—"Our Cheltenham tradesmen were not slow in making a 'leading feature' of the new coinage. Mr. Thomas, of the Golden Canister, 334, High Street, had, on Monday, a huge pile of it in his shop window, and so great was the 'run' upon it in the course of the day, that in the evening he was compelled, in the language of the Money Market, to 'raise the rate of discount,' the bronze pennies and half-pennies commanding a high 'Premium.'"

1860. December 20. Death of George Russell, Esq., High Bailiff of Cheltenham. The "Examiner," in noticing the event, says—"There are few public officers who have commanded so general an amount of respect, and maintained for so many years such a universal popularity as the late High Bailiff of Cheltenham. His genial disposition and good temper, his integrity and impartiality in the discharge of difficult duties, and in mediating between conflicting interests, formed, no doubt, the secret of this popularity and respect. By his death the town loses a good public officer, and his loss will be mourned by a large circle of warm and attached friends. The deceased gentleman was 62 years of age, and of this term of existence nearly forty years were spent in the service of the public."

1860. December 21. Presentation of a Maltese cross in gold, to J. Rees Phillips, Esq., colour sergeant of the Cotswold Company, as a memento of the appreciation of his exertions in support of that company, by his brethren in arms.

1860. December 26. Very severe frost: cricket match on the ice at Pittville lake. So severe was the frost that the water in the boiler of the "Examiner" steam engine was frozen so hard, that it was found dangerous to get up steam. The paper had, therefore, to be worked off by manual labour.

1860. December. This month Captain Struan Robertson successfully carried out a project he had initiated two years ago, of planting a row of trees each side of the Lansdown Road. On December 14, the ceremony of planting the first tree was performed by Captain Struan Robertson and his lady, the latter burying a couple of half-crowns under the roots. This road is upwards of 1,200 yards in length, and when the trees have attained a few years growth, it will be, without doubt, one of the finest drives of the kingdom. It will form, in fact, the *Champs Elysees* of Cheltenham, and we think, the town is much indebted to Captain Robertson for originating so great an improvement.—"Examiner." The expense, upwards of fifty pounds, was raised by voluntary contributions, collected by the Parish Church vergers, Mr. J. Russell. The number of avenues of trees in Cheltenham distinguish it in this particular from all other Watering

Places in the kingdom. The beautiful Promenade was formed by the late T. Henney, Esq., and the proprietors of Pittville and other private estates followed his example. Besides being ornamental, they are beneficial to health. An eminent German medical writer gave it as his opinion, that the reason why Cheltenham was not visited by the cholera in 1832, was in consequence of the abundance of trees in the town—the foliage absorbing what was detrimental to human existence.

1861. January. Subscriptions were raised in Cheltenham in aid of the ribbon weavers in Coventry. The total amount collected was £1,000.

1861. January. The weather being very severe the committee for the relief of the unemployed poor again solicited subscriptions and set the men at work on the public footpaths. About £500 was subscribed, and the number of men employed in this manner attained a maximum of 700 a day. The frost extended from the 24th of December, 1860, to the 20th January, 1861—a period of five weeks.

1861. January 15. Skating by torchlight by the youths of Cheltenham College on Pittville lake.

1861. January 16. Statements of the congregational collections for 1860, published in the "Examiner." The totals were—Christ Church, £1,377 17s. 7d.; Trinity, £1,227 3s. 6½d.; St. James's, £1,077 8s. 10½d.; the Parish Church £2,052 1s. 7½d.

1861. January. Died, Dr. Wm. Conolly, a physician formerly in extensive practice in Cheltenham. Died, R. W. Jerrard, Esq., the architect of Christ Church, the Queen's Hotel, and Literary Institution, and from whose designs the Lansdown and Montpelier estates were laid out for building purposes.

1861. January. A requisition got up to the Town Commissioners for the erection of a Town Hall, for holding benevolent and religious meetings, and for other public purposes, at a cost of £5,000.

1861. January 24. Died, Thomas Tanner, Millbrook-street, Alstone. The man was a coal porter, and his death caused a very painful feeling in the town from the fact that he was induced to drink himself to death by being "treated" by parties moving in a station of life in which such "larking" was but little excusable.

1861. January 31. Public meeting on the proposed Cheltenham and Bourton-on-the-Water Railway. The line was to be made by the West Midland Company, without calling upon the town to take up shares. Sir William Russell and others opposed it, but the meeting decided in its favour by a very large majority. On getting into Parliament the bill was thrown out on standing orders.

1861. February 8. Death in the midst of a dreadful storm off the coast of Ireland, of Captain Boyd, of H.M.S. Ajax, and brother of the Rev. Canon Boyd, late incumbent of Christ Church. Captain Boyd, with a number of his men, was throwing a rope from the shore to the drowning crew of a vessel, when a huge billow engulfed him in its recoil, and carried him away before the eyes of his companions. The body was recovered after some days and honoured with a public funeral, and a tablet to the memory of the deceased has been erected in the church which for so many years was hallowed by his brother's ministry in Cheltenham.

1861. February 18. Serious accident to Edward Griffiths, Esq., Marle Hill, while out with the hounds at Queen Wood.

1861. February. Mr. Edmund Alleyne, a pupil direct from Cheltenham Grammar School obtained a cadetship at the Woolwich examinations.

1861. February 20. Married, at the Parish Church, Col. Thompson, son of Pearson Thompson, Esq., to Miss Armytage, of Farnley Lodge—the first marriage celebrated in this building since the closing of its doors nearly two years ago.

1861. February 20 and 21. Great hurricane at Cheltenham. The first storm broke over the town about eleven o'clock on the night of the 20th, and the wind blew with uncontrollable fury until about three o'clock on the morning of the 21st. In the morning the town presented a scene of wide-spread desolation. Trees were uprooted and broken in every direction; chimnies blown down; houses partially unroofed; and windows forced in, on Bayshill, Lansdown, and all the more exposed situations. In the High-street, shutters were wrenched from their fastenings, and whirled several hundred yards through the streets; and many of the shop-keepers were obliged to keep watch and ward over their premises until the cessation of the storm or the approach of daylight. In the Christ Church district the church itself had several hundred panes of glass broken; a row of houses just finished in the Malvern-road were unroofed, and the walls cracked and twisted in every direction. At Aban Court two chimney stacks were blown down, as also were two at Suffolk Hall, the bricks of one falling completely through the roof and into a bedroom (fortunately unoccupied) beneath. Two of the noble elms in the Old Wells' avenue were destroyed, and several others much injured. At Hatherley Court a conservatory was carried bodily away, and a large number of plants destroyed; the drawing-room window was also blown in and a large mirror hurled from one end of the room to the other. At the corner of Henrietta-street stones, to the weight of nearly two tons, were carried from the house of Mr. Booth, draper, and hurled into the middle of the road. To enumerate the instances of similar damage in other parts of the town would occupy too much space; suffice it to say that chimney stacks were blown down, and roofs wholly or partially destroyed in nearly every district. Among the more serious casualties may be mentioned the fall of the chimnies at Mr. Maillard's, Gloucester-place, by which the bedrooms were almost filled with the ruins, and several of the inmates severely injured. In a small cottage near Lord Dunalley's a high chimney was toppled over and several tons of *debris* fell through the roof into a bedroom in which four persons were sleeping. The escape of the inmates was almost miraculous; the bricks and beams lay piled up in every part of the room higher than the bed itself, yet the bed and the four persons sleeping upon it escaped injury. On the following afternoon (the 21st), about five o'clock the storm returned in all its fury, but fortunately it only lasted about half-an-hour, yet even in this short time many houses which had escaped the night before sustained much damage. A large tree in the garden of Mr. Tartt, near the College, was snapped off by the wind, and, falling on the conservatory of Miss Yerbury's house adjoining, did damage to the extent of between £30 and £40. The shop front of Mr. Waite, chemist, of Ormond Villas, was also blown in, and about fifty feet of the high wall between the Royal Hotel yard and Liverpool-place was blown down. In the districts around Cheltenham the storm raged with equal fury. Several fine trees in Charlton Park were overturned, and the same occurred at Mrs. Capel's, Prestbury. At Gloucester, about forty feet of the railway station was blown down, the iron pillars being snapped asunder, and the corrugated iron of the roof twisted about like so much paper.

1861. February 24. Dr. Ryan, Bishop of Mauritius, preached at Christ Church.

1861. March 25. Funeral of the Duchess of Kent, mother of the Queen. The bells of the Parish Church rung muffled peals, the letter carriers wore black crape on their coats, and the members of the various rifle corps displayed the usual sign of military mourning.

1861. February 26. Statement put forth under this date of the final completion of the negotiations for the purchase of a house, No. 8, Royal Crescent, as a "Parsonage House" to the "Parish Church of St. Mary's, Cheltenham." The purchase was completed mainly through the instrumentality of T. G. Palmer,



Esq., No. 1, Royal Crescent, the Honorary Secretary of the Committee formed for carrying the object into effect. The movement commenced as early as the 26th of December, 1857, when it was found almost impossible to procure the services of an Incumbent partly from the fact that there was no residence attached to the living. To remedy this state of things a committee was formed for the purpose of raising subscriptions, and two applications for assistance made to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners failed of success. Ultimately Mr. Palmer volunteered to obtain a personal interview with the Commissioners to urge the wants and claims of the parish upon them; and his mission was so successful that that body at last consented to grant a sum of £600 towards the purchase, provided the parishioners would subscribe £1,200 with the like object. With this promise the committee went earnestly to work, and by July, 1858, had succeeded in raising £1,148 towards the £1,200 required. With this amount of success the committee felt warranted in taking the house, and the new Incumbent, the Rev. E. Walker, went into possession as tenant on the 24th of June in that year. On the 30th of December following the committee came to a resolution to purchase the house for £1,600; and Mr. Palmer was again deputed to proceed to London, and in a second interview with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners he induced that body to accept £1000 from the parishioners in lieu of the £1,200 as previously arranged, thus enabling the committee to pay the expenses of collection, &c., out of the sum originally required at their hands. At the Easter Vestry Meeting in 1859 the title deeds of the property and all the documents relating to the affair were handed over to the Parish and placed among the parochial records; and on the 24th of June following the new "Parsonage House" was finally handed over to the Incumbent free of all incumbrance. The total subscription raised in Cheltenham was £1,258 12s., making, with interest £24 13s. 2d. and £600 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, a total of £1,883 5s. 2d. Of this was expended for the house itself £1,600; for fixtures therein, £25 12s. 6d.; for bookcases, &c., £26; for gas fittings, £22 14s. 2d., the whole of which were to be considered as landlord's fixtures and to go with the freehold. After these disbursements had been made, and expenses of collection, &c., paid, there still remained a balance of £114 1s. 9d., which sum stands invested in the names of Mr. Hartland, Mr. Skillicorne, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Gwinnett in trust, to devote the interest in the external preservation and repairs of the house for ever. It should be stated that the solicitors, the counsel, and the surveyors of Ecclesiastical Commissioners refused to accept any remuneration for their services in respect of the purchase, so that the premises were obtained by the parish, as far as those officers were concerned, free from all legal charges. The committee through whose instrumentality this desirable addition to the Incumbency was brought about consisted of the following gentlemen:—Nathaniel Hartland, Esq., James Agg Gardner, Esq., E. Armitage, Esq., R. B. Hudleston, Esq., E. J. Eadaile, Esq., Mr. C. H. Hale, W. H. Gwinnett, Esq., R. S. Lingwood, Esq., Mr. H. Davies, Mr. Engall, Mr. D. J. Humphris, Wm. Nash Skillicorne, Esq., 9, Queen's Parade, Hon. Treasurer, and T. G. Palmer, Esq., 1, Royal Crescent, Hon. Sec. Among the subscribers to the fund the following are donors of £5 and upwards. Mrs. Capper, £20; Rev. W. Carus, £20; Dr. College, £25; Lord de Saumarez, £15; E. J. Eadaile, Esq., £20; W. H. Gwinnett, Esq., £50; a Friend, per Mr. Gwinnett, £25; N. Hartland, Esq., £50; Colonel Church Pearce, £25; Mrs. Church Pearce, £25; Mrs. Westropp, £50; Miss Yerbury, £50. The following gave £10 each:—E. Armitage, Esq., Mrs. Bailey, Miss Baron, T. Champion, Esq., Lady Cromie, Hon. Roper Curzon, Mrs. Freeman, Mr. J. A. Gardner, J. Garratt, Esq., Mrs. Gibbons, Mrs. Lardner, E. L. Newman, Esq., T. G. Palmer, Esq., Mrs. Sherwood, W. N. Skillicorne, Esq., S. M., (per Rev. E. Walker), Rev.

J. Venn, J. Waddingham, Esq., Miss Williams. The following gave £5 each.—Dr. Ackworth, Miss Aldridge, Rev. E. Anriol, A. K. Baker, Esq., Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Barry, Miss G. Raymond Barker, Miss S. F. F. Bedford, J. Beman, Esq., the Misses Braun, J. Bubb, Esq., T. P. W. Butt, Esq., W. Buckle, Esq., Miss Carrington, Mrs. Chelver, Mr. J. B. Churchill, Miss Clarkson, C. T. Cooke, Esq., Mr. Engall, Rev. C. Evans, W. Farquharson, Esq., Miss Finlay, J. Fisher, Esq., T. Fothergill, Esq., Miss Fothergill, a Friend, per D. J. Humphris, Esq., W. Gardner, Esq., Mrs. Grant, J. Graves, Esq., Mrs. Graves, W. Gyde, Esq., Mr. C. H. Hale, W. Hazell, Esq., W. H. Henney, Esq., Dr. Hooper, R. B. Huddleston, Esq., Mr. J. Humphris, Mr. D. J. Humphris, R. Japp, Esq., Dr. Ker, G. Law, Esq., R. S. Lingwood, Esq., Mrs. Newell, Mrs. Parr, Mrs. G. Royds, G. Russell, Esq., Rev. J. T. C. Saunders, Col. Schreiber, Messrs. Shirer and Sona, Miss Spencer, W. M. Squire, Esq., W. M. Tarrt, Esq., A. H. Tonge, Esq., C. H. Velley, Esq., Lieut. Col. Young, W. F. Young, Esq., and Mr. E. J. Young. The remainder was made up in smaller sums. The committee, at their final meeting in December 1860, accorded their cordial thanks to their treasurer, Mr. Skillicorne, and also to their secretary, Mr. Palmer, "for his great labour and assistance in promoting the object at length so happily attained." Mr. Palmer also received from the Rev. E. Walker as an appropriate acknowledgement of his exertions on the occasion, a very handsome copy of the Bible, the cover surmounted with a silver shield bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to T. G. Palmer, Esq., in grateful recognition, and as an affectionate memorial, of his kind and unwearied labours as honorary secretary to the committee for securing a Parsonage House for the Parish of Cheltenham, St. Mary's. June 24th, 1859." The location of the Parsonage House in the Royal Crescent tends, in some respects, to revive old associations, for it was at No. 15 in the same crescent that Mr. Jarvis, a former Incumbent, resided for many years. Mr. Jarvis was residing here in 1821 when Mr. Denman (afterwards Lord Chief Justice) one of the counsel for Queen Caroline, visited Cheltenham, on which occasion the Incumbent (being a King George's man) refused the bells to be rung. The populace, however, met Mr. Denman at Charlton Kings, and, taking his horses from the carriage, dragged him in triumph through the town to his lodgings at No. 5, Crescent. From the balcony of this house he addressed the people for three quarters of an hour and the mob then proceeded to the church, and, arming themselves with weapons from a stone yard on the site of the present Public Offices, burst open the belfry door and regaled their visitor with a merry peal. On the same evening the mob put out the street lights and afterwards attacked Mr. Jervis's house, breaking the windows and doing other damage. The Royal Crescent was built about the year 1809, on the site then known as the Church Mead. Shortly before the houses were finished No. 5 (belonging to the grandfather of Messrs. Jessop, of the avaries) caught fire through the ignition of some carpenters' shavings, and our informant well remembers an old woman, named Fletcher, standing up to her middle in a pond, which stood in the Meads on the spot now occupied by Rhodes's livery stables, and handing buckets of water to the firemen.

1861. February 29. Dexterous robbery of a cash-box and about £30 from Messrs. Furber and Sons, jewellers, Montpellier Walk. The thieves made themselves aware where the cash-box was kept, and, while an accomplice drove up in a fly and called Mr. Furber out of the shop, they made off with the box and its contents. They were cleverly traced to Gloucester and Bristol and apprehended, and at their trial at Gloucester were each sentenced to six years penal servitude.

1861. March 5. Site of the old Cheltenham Theatre sold by auction, by Messrs. Engall and Sanders, for £720. The purchaser was Mr. Sheepway, butcher.

1861. March 8. Re-opening of the Parish Church with sermons by the Rev. E. Walket, Incumbent.

1861. April. News arrived of the famine in India. A subscription was immediately opened in Cheltenham, which resulted in donations to the amount of £799 6s. 6d.

1861. April 8. Census of the parish taken. Families, 9,320; inhabited houses, 7,013; uninhabited houses, 223; building, 39; males, 16,476; females 23,114; total 39,500. Out parishes included in the Cheltenham Union, Charlton Kings, 3,443; Prestbury, 1,297; Leckhampton, 2,522; Badgworth, 1,038; Shurdington, 164; Up-Hatherley, 68; Uckington, 195; Swindon, 227; Cubberley, 343; Cowley, 311; Great Witcomb, 165; Staverton, 315; total in the Union, 49,688. The houses returned as uninhabited were not so in reality. They were so returned by direction of the census office, with a special note, that they were occupied during the day and rated to the poor, but not slept in, the owners having residences in adjoining parishes. The number of positively unoccupied houses in the town was remarkably small and belonged to the class "to let."

1861. April 15. A telegram received at Thirlestone Hall, announcing the death of the Baron de Stenbock, which took place unexpectedly during his absence in Germany, at the early age of 22 years.

1861. April 16. Meeting at the Queen's Hotel to form a limited liability company, for the purchase of the Montpellier Gardens. The purchase was completed in the November following.

1861. April 18. Final hearing in the House of Lords of the appeal "Newton v. Sir Cornwallis Ricketts." The appellant Newton was heard by their lordships for several hours, and immediately on the conclusion of his speech the lords, without calling upon the counsel for the respondent, dismissed the appeal.

1861. April 18. Complimentary dinner to Cregoe Colmore, Esq., master of the Fox Hounds, at the Plough Hotel. Sir Maurice Berkeley, president.

1861. April 23. Accident to Mr. Frederick Marshall at the Beckford races. On putting his horse at a fence Mr. Marshall was thrown, and had his leg broken by a kick. Mr. Marshall was brought home in Mr. Colmore's break, and on some one sympathising with him on the sad mishap he very pluckily exclaimed, "Well, never mind; I'm insured in the accidental!"

1861. May 1. Prospectus first published in the "Examiner" of the East Gloucestershire Railway Company. The history of this project, as far as it has yet gone, may be thus stated. The line was designed to run from Cheltenham to Dowdeswell, and thence to fork off—one branch on the narrow gauge running north-east to Bourton-on-the-Water, and the other on the broad-gauge south-east to Farringdon. The distance from Cheltenham to London would thus be reduced to 101 miles. The mode of passing through the town was from the present line near Malvern Road by a tunnel under Bayshill, and along the road by Queen's Parade, through the Montpellier Gardens, under the Bath Road, and thence on a slight embankment to the proposed station in Sandford Fields. On the 22nd of October the scheme was brought before a very large public meeting at the Assembly Rooms, which pronounced almost unanimously in its favour, and a large number of shares were taken up in Cheltenham and the district. Parties whose property was adjacent to the proposed tunnel regarded the scheme with serious misgiving; a powerful opposition was organised, but on the Bill going before the Commons Committee in March, 1862, the preamble was declared to be proved. The opponents of the line, however, persevered with their opposition in the Lords, where after a fortnight's hearing they were more successful; the Lords' Committee throwing out so much of the Bill as related to the town approaches, and only granting those portions of it between Dowdeswell and Bourton and Farringdon. In the autumn of 1862, the promoters resolved to apply to Parliament for leave to postpone any further prosecution of the

project until the year 1864, and a "Suspension" Bill was agreed to be introduced for that purpose in the session of 1863. But the Great Western Company, in February, in consequence of the hostility to the scheme on the part of their shareholders, consented to its final abandonment. We are thus enabled to describe with certainty the ultimate fate of this last attempt to devise an unobjectionable railway route through the town of Cheltenham.

1861. May. Negotiations for the purchase of the "Rectory" of Cheltenham of Messrs. Newman and Gwinnett by Simeon's Trustees, the patrons of the living. The negotiations were afterwards successfully completed, and the Minister of the Parish is henceforth the "Rector," instead of "Incumbent" and "Perpetual Curate."

1861. May 12. Death of James Basevi, Esq., aged 77 years.

1861. May 28. Literary Institution building sold by auction to Mr. E. L. Griffiths for £2,500.

1861. June 5. First Chapter of this "History of Cheltenham," from the pen of Mr. Goding, appeared in the "Examiner" of this date.

1861. June 12. Gold "siege piece" of Charles I. found in a brick-field at Charlton Kings.

1861. June 17, 18, and 19. Cricket match between the United All England Eleven and Twenty Present and Old Pupils of Cheltenham College. The Collegians came off victorious in one innings, their score being 263 against two scores of the "United" of 129 and 48.

1861. June 18. Distribution of prizes at Cheltenham College. At the meeting of proprietors the same day a discussion took place, and complaints were made which ultimately resulted in the resignation of the Rev. H. Highton, Head Master, and a radical change in the constitution of the governing body of the College.

1861. July 1. Presentation of a gold watch, value 35 guineas, and a purse of 30 sovereigns to Mr. Michael William Gore, now and for many years past guard on the Great Western Railway.

1861. July. Visit to Cheltenham of the Dean of Carlisle. On Sunday, June 30, the Dean preached in Christ Church in the morning, and in the Parish Church in the evening; and on Tuesday evening, July 2nd, he addressed a temperance lecture to a very large auditory, at the Assembly Rooms.

1861. July 3. Blondin went through his performance at the Montpellier Gardens, in the presence of 3,000 spectators.

1861. July 22. The Barony of Berkeley. The London *Times* of this date contains the following semi-official announcement:—"We understand that it is the intention of Her Majesty, by the advice of her responsible Ministers, to create Admiral the Right Hon. Sir Maurice Fitzhardinge Berkeley a Peer, by the title of Baron Berkeley of Berkeley Castle." The "Examiner" of the following Wednesday says—"There are very few men, whatever their political opinions may be, who will fail to regard this announcement with feelings of satisfaction. The personal character of the new Baron, the services he has rendered to his country, and the peculiar circumstances which recommend him to the favourable consideration of his Sovereign, all combine to render this public recognition of his claims to a seat in the House of Lords peculiarly gratifying. Sir Maurice Berkeley will take his seat in that House not only with the *prestige* of past services, but as the acknowledged head of a great historical family. The cruel wrong which has been done to that family by placing the Earldom of Berkeley so long in abeyance, will now have been in some measure redressed. Sir Maurice, although unsuccessful in his claims to the Barony by 'feudal tenure,' still obtains the object of his ambition by receiving a patent of nobility from the hands of Her Majesty, under the title of 'Baron Berkeley of Berkeley Castle'.

Never, surely, was a public honour more honourably earned or more worthily bestowed." [It was afterwards arranged that the new title should be Baron Fitzhardinge instead of Baron Berkeley. On Nov. 27th, when the noble Lord visited Cheltenham for the first time since his elevation to the Peerage, a congratulatory address was presented to him from the inhabitants; a compliment in which men of all political parties cordially united.]

1861. July. Appointment of Mr. Horsley as county medical analyst. The Chairman at the Quarter Sessions reported that "at the last session Mr. Horsley was conditionally appointed county analyst, under the Adulteration of Food Act. The chairman now moved his permanent appointment, and stated that a suitable laboratory had been constructed at the police-station at Cheltenham.

1861. August 28. Death of Mrs. Capper, relict of Robert Capper, Esq. J.P., at her residence, Suffolk Lawn, in her 76th year.

1861. September 5. Sale of the Boddington Manor and Withy Bridge estates, by Mr. T. Lewis, at the Plough. Of 1,100 acres offered, the portions sold and the prices realised were as follows:—Of the Boddington estates, about 295 acres sold, realizing £14,125, or about £48 per acre. The Withy-bridge, of 150 acres, realized £8,325, or about £55 per acre. The total sold being 445 acres, the sum realized £22,450, and the average price per acre within a fraction of £50.

1861. October. "Pratt's" coach, which had run between Cheltenham and Malvern for 40 years, was this month beaten by the railway "off the road."

1861. October. Establishment of the "Cheltenham Ophthalmic Hospital: Dr. College, consulting physician; Walter Jessop, jun., Esq., surgeon.

1861. November. Tablet to the memory of the late G. Russell, Esq., erected in the chancel of the Parish Church, in which the deceased gentleman was for many years a constant attendant.

1861. Nov. 10. Died, at his residence, Promenade, Joseph Wilkinson, Esq., an active member of the Christ Church congregation, and an intimate friend of the late Incumbent, the Rev. Canon Boyd.

1861. November 13. Stormy meeting of the proprietors of Cheltenham College. The resolutions come to were considered adverse to the Directors, and on the following day the Board met and resolved to resign.

1861. November 22. Died, at Beaufort Villas, Major-General Derinzev. He went through the Peninsular campaigns, was severely wounded through both knees at Corunna, was run through the body and left for dead at the Battle of Neville; he was twice wounded, musket ball in left arm, and by a splinter of a shell in the chest, at the Battle of Toulouse, but did not quit the field. He received for his services the Gold Medal for Toulouse, and the Silver War Medal and nine Claspas."

1861. November 24. Died at Brighton, aged 78, Captain David Latimer St. Clair, of Staverton Court, and for many years a J.P. for this district. He entered the navy in 1797, and saw much active service, during which he was a companion and fellow voyager of Sir James Ross, the celebrated Arctic navigator, and who was a frequent visitor to the town. The last occasion upon which Sir James Ross visited Cheltenham was during the meeting of the British Association, in 1856, and he was then the guest of Capt. St. Clair. Sir James was at that time in a declining state of health, and prior to his return home (where he shortly afterwards died) presented to his host, in token of their many years friendship, two sketches, taken by himself, representing engagements in which they both took part—the first, a frigate action, and the second, the capture and destruction of a three-decker in the Straits of Gibraltar. Captain St. Clair was connected with a very ancient family, claiming descent from Walderny, Comte de St. Clair, cousin german of William the Conqueror and common ancestor of Lord St. Clair and the Earls of Rosslyn and Caithness. He married

the daughter of J. Farhill, Esq., of Chichester, (tutor to H. R. H. the late Duke of Kent), and grand-daughter of Sir T. Wilson, Knight. "Examiner," Nov. 27.

1861. November 25. Death under most distressing circumstances of Mrs. Daniel Alder, of Imperial Circus. Mrs. Alder was a lady well known and respected, her husband had been honourably known as a tradesman for 40 years, yet while his wife was lying dead in the house, and himself, to all appearance, on the point of death, his creditors forced him into the Bankruptcy Court—a proceeding which evoked an amount of sympathy on behalf of the family such as is rarely witnessed. Mr. Alder himself was a great sufferer up to the time of his decease, which took place in January, 1863.

1861. November 25. Sale of the block of property from Mr. Harpin's, 108, High Street, to Mr. Vimpany's, 6, Winchcomb Street. The total rental was about £210 per annum, and after a spirited competition, the whole was bought by Mr. W. S. Davis for £3,340.

1861. December 4. The "Examiner" of this date records the obituary of Thomas Pilkington, Esq., Chairman of the Bench of Magistrates, which took place Nov. 27, aged 82; of Mrs. Martin, wife of Mr. Martin, jeweller, aged 78k and of Mr. Frederick Williams, aged 31. Speaking of Mr. Pilkington, the notice says:—"We feel, while making this announcement, that it affords no subject for mere posthumous eulogy. During a residence of more than a quarter of a century in Cheltenham Mr. Pilkington has endeared himself to the hearts of thousands amongst us by the force of his character, the integrity of his principles, by the kindness of his disposition, by his conduct as a magistrate and a private citizen, and by unnumbered acts of private and public munificence. Of his loss it may be truly said that

"Take him for all in all,  
We ne'er shall look upon his like again;"

and the public funeral, which is this day accorded to his remains, will be no mere idle pageant, but the "outward and visible sign" of that deep sorrow at his loss which pervades the hearts of every class of his fellow-townsmen."

1861. December 9. Sudden death of Rowley Young Lloyd, Esq., barrister, of Bibury Cottage. He was a son of the late Admiral Lloyd; he had listened to the funeral sermon on the late Mr. Pilkington, at St. John's, on Sunday, and on the following afternoon, while walking in his garden, was seized with a fit and suddenly expired.

1861. December 15. News received in Cheltenham of the unexpected death of the Prince Consort. The telegram was posted at the "Examiner" Office as the people were going to morning service, and to most of whom this was the first and sudden intimation of the melancholy event.

1861. December 19. W. N. Skillicorne, Esq., unanimously elected Chairman of the Cheltenham Bench of Magistrates.

1861. December 16. Sudden illness, from the bursting of a blood vessel on the lungs, of Mr. William Boodle, the well-known solicitor of this town. Mr. Boodle appeared to be on the point of death for several weeks; but by the aid of a good constitution, the unremitting care of his family, and the skill of his three medical attendants—Dr. Colledge, Dr. Cooke, and Mr. Charles Gregory—he was ultimately restored to his usual health.

1861. December 30. Presentation of a copy of Patrick and Lowth's Commentary to Rev. Gordon Calthrop, by the working men of the Trinity district.

1862. January 1st. Dense fog in Cheltenham. Mr. Attewell, butcher, going in his gig to Charlton Kings, drove into a deep pond. Mr. Attewell was got out without serious injury, but the horse was drowned.

1862. January 2. Meeting at the Town Hall, convened by Mr. Parsonage

High Bailiff, to present an address of condolence to her Majesty on her recent bereavement.

1862. January 8. Death of the Hon. Admiral Jones, uncle to Lord Ranelagh, aged 74. He entered the navy in 1790, and served in every part of the world up to the peace of 1814.

1862. January. Glover's Oxford Mail "the last of the coaches," was this month taken off the road.

1862. January 13. Robbery of a cash box containing £80, from a drawer in the bedroom of Mr. Lovack, silversmith, Montpellier Walk. The box was afterwards found in a shrubbery at Lansdown, but the money was never recovered.

1862. January 17. Dreadful explosion at Hartley Colliery. 220 men and lads were killed, and 103 widows, 207 children, and 47 others deprived of their husbands, fathers or protectors. A subscription list was opened in Cheltenham, and £534 subscribed, of which sum £209 was collected by Mr. John Russell.

1862. January. The public gas lamps extended from Cheltenham to Leckhampton; the event was celebrated by a public dinner of the inhabitants on the night it was first illuminated. The rector of Leckhampton, the Rev. C. B. Trye, presided, and upwards of 400 parishioners were present.

1862. February 3. Sudden death of Dr. G. Lamb at his residence, 16, Suffolk-square, aged 76. He was formerly Physician General to the Bengal Army, and since his residence in Cheltenham, had been a liberal contributor to every call of public or private charity. Dr. Lamb was a member of the Presbyterian congregation, and had partaken of the sacrament at the hands of Dr. Steel on the day preceding his death: at which time he appeared in his usual health.

1862. February 5. Adjourned meeting of proprietors of Cheltenham College. The meeting resolved to do away with the present government by a Board of Directors, and to vest the future management of the College in a "Council" consisting of a visitor, 10 life members, and 12 proprietary members.

1862. February 8. Consecration of St. Mark's Church. The church accommodates 517 persons, 267 of the sittings being free. The district extends over 2,000 acres. The Incumbent, the Rev. G. P. Griffiths, contributed the munificent sum of £500 towards the building, and a like sum towards the endowment fund. Mr. Griffiths has also erected a handsome Parsonage House, and a residence for the curate in the neighbourhood of the church.

1862. February 11. Farewell tea meeting to the Rev. Dr. Steel at the Presbyterian Church on his departure to the pastorate of a church in New South Wales.

1862. February. Accounts received from India of the presentation of the Victoria Cross to Lieut.-Col. Browne, of the 2nd Punjaub Cavalry, an officer well-known in Cheltenham.

1862. March 22. First election of Commissioners for the district of Charlton Kings. The successful candidates were Sir Wm. Russell, Bart., and Messrs. J. Freeman, W. Hawkes, C. C. Higgs, S. H. Gael, H. J. Humphris, W. Jordon, C. Burgess, W. Turk, J. Rogers, J. Villar, and N. Hartland, Esq.

1862. March. Return of an old resident. Dr. Murley, a physician formerly in extensive practice here,—and now retired and devoting his time and energies to the education of the blind—has again taken up his residence in Cheltenham. Mr. Murley and another of our old inhabitants, Mr. Gyde, are stated to be the only two survivors of the committee of the first Bible Society established in Cheltenham during the Incumbency of the Rev. C. Jervis in 1821. To show how "great events from little causes spring," it may be interesting to mention that this "Auxiliary" society which Mr. Gyde and Mr. Murley assisted to found but 30 years ago, has now grown into proportions which none of the originators perhaps ever contemplated. The Cheltenham Auxiliary Bible Society has now

a spacious dépôt at No. 4, Clarence-street; and the Depositary. Mr. W. Witchell, informs us that at this establishment alone, the sale of bibles and portions during the past 3 years has averaged nearly 4000 copies per annum, while for the year 1862, the sale was 4,950 copies.

1862. March. Dr. Eves, senior physician to the Cheltenham Hospital, resigned his appointment, after a professional connection with the institution of 30 years duration. The Board received the announcement of his resignation with deep regret, and expressed a hope that he would accept the office of consulting surgeon.

1862. March. In the first report of the Cheltenham Ophthalmic Infirmary it was stated that since the end of October last 200 patients had been under treatment, and that two operations for cataract had been successfully performed; the patients, one aged 77 and the other 66 having left the hospital restored to sight.

1862. March. Longevity in Cheltenham. During the past month an unusual number of aged persons have died in Cheltenham, no less than thirteen having been interred in our parish cemetery above 70 years of age. Of this number, eleven had passed their 75th year, seven had exceeded 80, four had passed 85, one had reached 99, and one died at 103. Their united ages makes a total of 1071 years, or an average of 82 years to each person. These statistics are such as few towns in England of similar size to Cheltenham can boast.—“Examiner,” April 2.

1862. April 9. Terrible accident at Thackwell's brickyard. A man named Charles Luker got his arm in the machine, and, attracted by his screams, another, man, named Colley rushed to the spot, and, in his endeavours to save his companion, had the fingers of one hand crushed, and the fingers of the other cut off, and dragged completely from the hand. Mrs. Thackwell, who happened to be near, with great presence of mind applied the break, and so, no doubt, saved the poor fellows from still more serious injuries. The “Examiner” having suggested a subscription for the man Colley, Mr. Russell opened a book for this purpose, and a sum of £22 was thus obtained for his benefit.

1862. April. The new Council of Cheltenham College advertised for a Principal—the emoluments being stated at £1,600 a-year.

1862. April 26. At the College Athletic sports, a serious accident occurred to one of the pupils, Mr. Laurence Garnett. He was vaulting with the pole, and had already topped a height of 7ft. 11in. when, on the next rise, his pole broke short off, and, falling on his back, he sustained so severe an injury to the spine that, for some time his life was despaired of.

1862. May 13. Sudden death of Sir Joseph Leeds, at his residence, 4, Segrave Place, Pittville. Sir Joseph retired to rest in his usual health, but, on Lady Leeds awaking in the morning, she found her husband lying by her side a corpse.

1862. May 18. The Yeomanry, to the number of 360, attended divine service at the Parish Church. Among the officers present were the Duke of Beaufort (accompanied by the Duchess), Sir W. Codrington, M.P., Barwick Baker, Esq. (accompanied by his lady), Capt. Baker, Hugh Owen, Esq., and several others. At the conclusion of the service, the men formed in the churchyard, and thence, with the Duke and Duchess at their head, marched to the Plough Hotel, to the music of the band.

1862. May 24. Election of the Rev. A. Barry, M.A., Head Master of the Leeds Grammar School, to the Principalship of Cheltenham College.

1862. May 31. Grand fete champetre at Mrs. Craven's, Brockworth Park.

1862. June. Proposal for a new Church for Charlton Kings. It was stated that C. C. Higga, Esq., had offered a site at the junction of the upper and lower London roads, and also a donation of £1,000 towards the building.



1862. June 21. Death of Mr. Walter Jessop, Surgeon, at his residence 4, Royal Crescent. Mr. Jessop, though a young man, had attained to great eminence in his profession. He had a large and rapidly increasing practice, and his premature death, after but a few days' illness, created a very painful sensation throughout the town.

1862. June 29. Opening of Earl Ellenborough's restored Norman chapel at Southam.

1862. July 8. Death of Lady Ellen Fitzallen Howard, step-daughter of the late Craven F. Berkeley, M.P. The deceased lady's name obtained a considerable prominence some years ago, while Miss Augusta Talbot, in connexion with her alleged detention in a nunnery against her wishes.

1862. July 9. Town Commissioners unanimously selected the design of Mr. Knight, architect, of this town, for the buildings at the new Cemetery. There were upwards of twenty competitors.

1862. July 15. J. Davies, Esq., Surgeon-Major, H.P., elected to the Surgeoncy of the Cheltenham Eye Infirmary, in the room of the late Walter Jessop, Esq.

1862. July 21. Extraordinary accident to Cheltenham Volunteers. The Battalion was exercising in a field near Clarence Square, when some horses, confined in a shed in their rear, suddenly broke loose, and, rushing through the ranks, knocked down and severely injured several of the men.

1862. July 22. Public opening of the new rifle range at the Seven Springs.

1862. July 23. Mr. G. Rowe, formerly of Cheltenham, awarded a medal at the Great Exhibition for his "faithful and beautiful delineations of the country, workings, and other relations of the Australian gold fields." Mr. Rowe was the only artist to whom a medal was awarded at this Exhibition.

1862. July 23. Third annual inspection of the Cheltenham Battalion of Volunteers, at Charlton Kings. The number attending was 225 of all ranks.

1862. July 30. Authorization in the *London Gazette* to Sir John Maxwell Steele, Bart., J.P. for this county, to take and use the surname of Graves in addition to that of Steele.

1862. July. Order in Council erecting the district of St. Mark's, Cheltenham, into a separate ecclesiastical district, and authorizing the celebration of marriages, churchings, and baptisms in the new church.

1862. August 11. Obituary. We record this week, with deep regret, the death of Mrs. G. E. Williams, of 6, Royal Crescent. The deceased lady had been ailing for some months past, and we believe her death, which took place on Monday evening, arose from a general break-up of the system, rather than from any specific malady. To Mr. Williams himself, in the shattered state of his own health, the loss of his devoted and affectionate partner must be an irreparable calamity; and in recording the event we will only add that the warm sympathies of the public, by whom he is so well known and respected, will be cordially extended to him in this his sad bereavement.—"Examiner," August 13.

1862. August. An anonymous donor, under the signature of W. S., paid through Mr. T. B. Goddard, Manager of the Gloucestershire Bank, the sum of £150 to the credit of the Cheltenham Hospital.

1862. August 26. Excursion of the children of the Baker-street schools and their friends, to the number of 600, to Tortworth Park, the seat of Earl Ducie, Lord Lieutenant of the county.

1862. September. From Wednesday morning, the 27th of August, to Tuesday evening, the 2nd of September—seven days—Mr. Bennett, the Registrar for the Parish of Cheltenham, was only called upon to make an entry of one death out of a population of 40,000 souls!

1862. September 5. Sir Wm. Russell, Bart., of the 14th Dragoon Guards,

was the reviewing officer of the Northumberland and Newcastle Yeomanry Cavalry at their annual inspection this day.

1862. September 7. Mrs. Vaile, wife of Mr. Vaile, No. 2, Midland-terrace, seized with a fit during Divine service, at St. Mark's Church, and died shortly after being removed home.

1862. September 8. Earl Ellenborough. Our neighbour, the noble Lord of Southam, completed his 72nd year on Monday last, having been born September 8, 1790. We are pleased to say that we see the respected Peer pass through our town daily. He appears in excellent health.—“*Examiner*,” Sept. 10.

1862. September. News received of the arrival at Sydney, on the 26th of June, of Dr. Steel, late minister of the Cheltenham Presbyterian Church. The Rev. gentleman was inducted to the pastoral charge of Macquarie Street Free Church, Sydney, on the 17th July, and on the following day met his friends at a tea party, at which 600 were present, including sixteen ministers of various denominations.

1862. September 17. The “*Examiner*” of this date says:—“Of the twelve adult deaths occurring in this town, as recorded in our obituary to-day, eight occurred between the ages of 66 and 82, giving an average duration of life of exactly 77 years! The fact speaks well for the proverbial healthiness of Cheltenham and its neighbourhood.”

1862. September 22. Curious phenomena at the “*Examiner*” Office. A letter file being hung casually on a nail in the printing office it commenced a regular pendulum movement, which has continued night and day up to the present time (February, 1863). Numbers of persons have visited the office to witness the phenomenon, and among them many scientific men; but no satisfactory solution has ever been arrived at. If the file is removed and again re-hung, and placed quite still, it immediately commences its vibratory movement, and in a few minutes is again in full swing. The movement is perfectly steady and regular, and the beats as near as possible sixty to the minute.

1862. September 28. Collections at Christ Church this day in aid of the Distressed Operatives in the Cotton Districts amounted to the large sum of £245. This collection, large as it is, is not so large as that once contributed by a Cheltenham congregation, for a correspondent of the “*Examiner*” instances the fact that in St. James's Church, on the 14th February, 1847, the collection in aid of the starving Irish amounted to £320 9s. 3½d., after *one* sermon by the Rev. F. D. Gilby.

1862. September. Serious illness of Mr. Dangerfield, Borough Surveyor. The nature of the illness was such as to require a total cessation from all business engagements; and Mr. Dangerfield having sent in his resignation, the Commissioners elected Mr. D. J. Humphris to fill the vacancy, on the understanding that should Mr. Dangerfield recover within a reasonable time, the office would again be declared vacant with a view to his re-election. Public sympathy was very largely manifested for the affliction which had befallen Mr. Dangerfield and his family: his character being such as to win the general esteem of his fellow-townsmen.

1862. October 19. A severe storm of wind in Cheltenham, blowing down two of the large elms in the Old Wells, and inflicting considerable damage in other parts of the town. While the storm was at its height, four wild swans were observed to settle on the grounds of J. T. Stewart, Esq., Fullwood Park; one of them was secured, but the others succeeded in making their escape.

1862. October 20. Death of the Right Hon. Lord Sherborne, aged 83.

1862. October 21. Death of Mr. John Bubb, solicitor, of this town, aged 66. Mr. Bubb was a member of the Board of Commissioners, and through a long professional and public life had secured in a remarkable manner the

confidence of his clients, the respect of the public, and the warm attachment of his family and friends.

1862. October 21. Sale of the Manor of Cheltenham, at the Auction Mart, London. The "Examiner" says.—"The Manor, with the whole of the rights and property appertaining to it, was first put up in one lot, but met with no offer. Lot 1, comprising the Manor, 'with all royalties, courts leet, courts baron, rents, heriots, fines, and other rights and other privileges thereto belonging,' together with the steward's fees and the manor office was then offered, but was 'not sold' at £23,000, beyond which there was no advance. Lot 2, the market, &c., was also 'not sold' at £4000. Lot 3, a portion of Charlton common, was knocked down to Sir William Russell for £1,500. Lot 4, No. 6, Berkeley Place, was purchased for £1000. Lot 5, 148, High Street, was bought for the present tenant, Mr. Sims, by Mr. Downing, at £1,800; and lot 6, coach-houses, stables, &c., in Witcomb Place, was sold for £100. It will thus be seen that only £4,400 worth of the property has been sold, the major portion of it still remaining in the hands of the present owners."

1862. October 25. Volunteer meeting at the Assembly Rooms for the presentation of four silver cups, given by Lady Charlotte Schreiber, to the successful competitors among the Cheltenham Battalion. It was stated in the "Examiner" of the 29th that a cadet corps had been formed among the pupils of Cheltenham College, with a muster roll to commence with of 100 members.

1862. November 4. Sale by Engall and Sanders of the business premises of Messrs. Malvern, brush makers, High Street. Mr. W. F. George was the purchaser at the very high price of £2,210.

1862. November. Manor of Cheltenham. We hear from good authority that the Manor has been at length sold by private treaty. Several parties are stated to have been in negotiation with the vendors; and the rumour is that the actual purchaser is Mr. Robert Sole Lingwood, and that the price given is £33,000.—"Examiner," November 12

1862. November 15. Death of T. Williams, Esq., solicitor, aged 62.

1862. November 21. Presentation of a handsome silver vase to Captain Iredell, to commemorate his services as one of the founders, and for twenty-two years a director, of Cheltenham College. "The number of pupils on Captain Iredell's retirement was 614."

1862. November 27. Wedding festivities at Charlton Kings on the marriage of Captain St. Clair Ford with Miss Ellen Jane Potter, of East Court.

1862. December 5. The new Lord of the Manor, Mr. Lingwood, wrote to the Commissioners offering to sell to the town the Market Arcade, the Market House, and tolls, for the sum of £10,000, the amount to be levied by a small rate extending over a period of thirty years. The offer was referred to a committee.

1862. December 14. Alarm of fire at the Assembly Rooms. The fire occurred through the ignition of a beam running into one of the chimnies; it was extinguished with only slight damage.

1862. December 14. Fatal accident to Mr. Stewart Thompson while out with the Cotswold hounds. The horse fell and threw his rider, inflicting, at the same time, a kick on the back part of the head, which fractured the base of his skull.

1862. December 15. Death of the Rev. J. Smith, for many years minister of Cambray Chapel.

1862. December 16. Enquiry by Mr. Ranger, by order of the Home Office, into the question of the proposed removal of a fly stand to Imperial Circus. Mr. Ranger reported in favour of the removal.

1862. December 16. Performance at the Old Wells by the gentlemen amateurs, for the benefit of the Lancashire operatives.

1862. December 17. Advertisement in the "Examiner" of the formation of a junior department in connection with Cheltenham College.

1862. December 17. Announcement of an intended marriage between the Countess of Guilford, widow of the late earl, and Lettson Elliott, Esq., formerly of Cheltenham.

1862. December. The Rev. Cannon Boyd offered a stall in Durham Cathedral value £1,200 per annum, which offer was subsequently declined.

1862. December. Mr. E. Alleyne, late a pupil at the Grammar School, after taking first honours at Woolwich received his commission as Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers.

1862. December 17. The pupils of the Grammar School presented a silver ink-stand to Mons. Tiessett, their French master on his departure for Germany.

1862. December. Mr. G. H. Williams appointed distributor of stamps for Cheltenham in the room of his father, the late T. Williams, Esq., solicitor.

1862. December 20. Marriage at St. Luke's Church between S. H. Barton, Esq., and Miss Frobisher, daughter of Major Frobisher, J.P., D.L.

1862. December 28. The Cheltenham Battalion of Volunteers attended, divine service at the College Chapel. The sermon was preached by the Rev. T. P. Boulthée.

1862. December. Cambridge Law Tripo.—Mr. Francillion, of Trinity Hall and son of J. Francillion, Esq., our respected County Court Judge, is the first-class man in the Cambridge Law Tripo, 1862.

1862. December. Munificence of the Queen.—A lady residing at Pittville has received a second donation of £5 from Her Majesty the Queen, for an old man of 107 years of age, named William Purser, a native of Redmarley, but now living in this town.

1863. January 1. Married, at Hove Church, Brighton, Sir W. Russell, Bart., M.P., of Charlton Park, to Margaret, only child of the late R. Wilson, Esq., The "Examiner" of a few weeks previous, in noticing Sir William's approaching nuptials, says—"Miss Wilson, of Dundigon, in the county of Lanark was with her mother on a visit at The Hearn, Charlton Kings, some time ago; and it is probable thence her acquaintance with Sir William dates its commencement. She is described by those who know her as being young and exceedingly handsome, and possessing, in her own right, a fortune of from £100,000 to £150,000." Sir William and his lady arrived at Charlton Park from their wedding tour on Saturday, January 31st.

1863. January. Opening of classes in physiology and natural philosophy at the Grammar School. The "Examiner" states—"It may be remembered that an uninterrupted series of successes on the part of its late pupils, in various practical branches connected with such studies, has marked the last few years. Besides the distinctions of scholarships, tripes, and the Woolwich cadets' list, or that of Royal Engineer commissions, its *alumni* have found their way into various positions of eminence by their scientific attainments; they have assisted in piercing the valley of the Ganges by a railway, and in planning the machinery of our mightiest frigates. Of such openings, youths of good birth and gentle manners are shewn to be every day eager to avail themselves; and we are glad to find the oldest among the schools of Cheltenham thus forward in all needful modern appliances to facilitate their aspirations." We subjoin, to show the success of this institution, a copy of the University Honour List—Townsend Exhibition at Pembroke College Oxford, 1853, Henry M. Fryer; Bible Clerkship at St. John's College, Oxford, 1855, William Eason; Open Scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 1856, Francis Bedwell; First Class in Classics at Moderations and Second Class in Mathematics, 1856, Henry M. Fryer; First Class in Mathematics and Second Class in Classics at Moderations at Oxford, 1856,

William Esson; Junior University Mathematical Scholarship at Oxford, April, 1857, William Esson; Townsend Exhibition at Pembroke College, Oxford, 1857, John Whitwell; Second Class in Classical Moderations at Oxford, June 1858, Francis Bedwell; Licentiate's Diploma, with First Class Honours in Theory and Practice of Education and in Divinity, and Second Class in Classics and History, at the Royal College of Preceptors, June 1858, Thomas Roberts; Second Class in Classical Moderations at Oxford, 1859, John M. Whitwell; Junior Optime, Cambridge, 1859, C. F. Gardner; Senior Mathematical Scholarship and Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, 1860, William Esson; Second Class in final examination in Law and Modern History, Oxford, 1860, Francis Bedwell; Townsend Scholar, Pembroke College, Oxford, 1861, Henry Swann; Demy in Natural Philosophy, Magdalen College, Oxford, 1861, W. H. Corfield; Fourth in First Class of Classical Tripos, University of London, 1861, T. Roberts; Scholarship of £100 at the University of Melbourne, 1861, C. Bromby; Exhibition of £40 per annum at Jesus College, Oxford, 1862, A. M. Lewis; Exhibition of £70 per annum at Magdalen College, Oxford, 1862, W. H. Corfield; Second Class in Physical Science Tripos, London University, July, 1862, P. Hurlestone; fifth place in the First Class at the Senior Freshmen's Examination, Dublin, October 1862, J. Waterworth. Military and other Examinations—Addiscombe Gentleman Cadet, January, 1861, and First Term Competitive Examination, third place, with Prize in Chemistry, June, 1861, E. J. Alleyne; Passed for Indian Civil Service, 1862, Thomas Roberts; Commission in the Royal Engineers, with the ninth place in order of seniority, December, 1862, E. J. Alleyne.

1863. January 6. At the Court of Quarter Sessions, this day, Mr. Parnell resigned the office of chairman to the magistrates, which he had held for many years. Mr. Curtis Hayward, chairman of the Second Court, was unanimously elected to the vacant office. The magistrates joined in a request to Mr. Parnell that he would allow his portrait to be painted, to be hung in the grand jury room as a memento of his brother magistrates' appreciation of his services.

1863. January 7. A number of newspapers and letters received at the "Examiner" office, from Dr. Richardson, formerly of Cheltenham, and now of Otago, New Zealand, marked by the post office authorities as "saved from the wreck of the Colombo."

1863. January 13. Grand amateur concert at the Assembly Rooms, under the patronage of Sir A. and Lady Ramsay. It was one of the most brilliant and successful entertainments that have taken place in Cheltenham for many years. After paying expenses, there was a balance of nearly £200 towards the Lancashire Relief Fund.

1863. January 14. Receipt of the following donations to the Cheltenham Hospital acknowledged in the "Examiner":—Thomas Champion, Esq., £52 10; Miss Sowden, £10 10; Hon. Mrs. Maunsell, £31 10; Mrs. Armytage, £10; Mrs. Flanagan, £10; W. S., per T. B. Goddard, Esq., £150; a Lady, per Capt. Iredell, £10; Rev. Harry Wright, £10 10; Miss Lancaster, £21; Miss M. A. Lancaster, £21; Miss M. T. Lancaster, £21; Mrs. Clutterbuck, £10; total, £356.

1863. January 17. Death of Mr. Daniel Alder, aged 66. The "Examiner," in speaking of the event, says: "Our obituary this week records the death of one of the oldest tradesmen in Cheltenham, and one who, during a business life of many years' duration, earned a respected name. The last two years of Mr. Alder's life were marked by painful vicissitudes of fortune. In 1861, at one blow, his wife was taken from him by death, and the firm of which he was a member became bankrupt; and these heavy afflictions laid himself on a bed of sickness. Since that time he has never again appeared amongst his fellow-townsmen, but has lingered on in a sick room, to experience many months of painful illness. His sufferings have been patiently borne, although he has long looked forward to

the melancholy event which could alone release him from his afflictions. We regret that his last moments were not soothed by happier and more prosperous circumstances."

1863. January 19. Resignation of Dr. Gibney, senior physician of Cheltenham Hospital, and for upwards of forty years connected with the medical staff of that Institution. A testimonial, subscribed for him on his retirement, reached in the course of a few weeks, to upwards of £700.

1863. January 19. Presentation of colours to the 18th Company Cheltenham Volunteers. The presentation took place at the Town Hall, by the lady of Col. Berkeley, M.P., in the presence of a large number of spectators.

1863. January 22. Meeting to consider the propriety of inviting the Gloucestershire Agricultural Society to hold its meeting in Cheltenham this summer. After some discussion, it was decided to delay the invitation until next year.

1863. January 22. Death of Dr. Holmes, after a short illness. The event was hastened by the deceased accidentally drinking a mixture of potassia and water, in mistake for pure water.

1863. January 24. Bazaar opened at the Assembly Rooms, in aid of the funds for repewing St. Paul's Church:

1863. January. Death of an old lady in London, the owner of two houses, Nos. 1 and 2, Brunswick Terrace, near the College. The houses had remained unoccupied for many years, the lady refusing to let them, except at an enormous rent, coupled with very stringent restrictions. On the old lady's death it was found that she had died intestate, and, being illegitimate, her personal property reverted to the crown, and her real estate in Cheltenham reverted to the Lord of the Manor. The two houses, estimated in value at from £4,000 to £5,000, will thus revert to Mr. Gardner's trustees—all vested interests of this kind being specially reserved to them at the late sale of the Manor.

1863. January 29. Death of Mr. T. Simmonds, brewer, one of the oldest tradesmen of the town, and for some years churchwarden of St. Peter's district, aged 72.

1863. January. Discovery of a human skeleton. About a fortnight since some workmen in the employ of Mr. Thomas Perkins, farmer, of Withington, were engaged in excavating stone for use upon the roads when they came upon several old Roman coins, some of them being upwards of an ounce in weight. After working for some time longer, and at about eighteen inches from the surface of the ground, the workmen struck upon the skull of a human skeleton, which rolled down under their feet. Proceeding further, they came to the remainder of the skeleton, with the exception of a portion of the fingers, which appeared to have been eaten or decayed away. The teeth in the lower jaw of the skull were exceedingly perfect, but a portion of the upper jaw and some of the teeth were missing. The discovery has caused a good deal of speculation in the district, and various surmises have been hazarded. The coins are in the possession of Mr. Hughes, of the New Inn, Charlton Kings, who will show them to anyone who may desire to see them.—"Examiner," January 23 [The publication of the above caused many of our local savans to visit Mr. Hughes, and the general impression appears to be that the skeleton was one of a Roman soldier who probably died on the march, and that the coins were buried with the body. One of the coins bears a representation of the altar of Janus, and its date is supposed to be about 150 years before the Christian era.]

1863. February. The Cheltenham Rectory. The formal induction of the Rev. E. Walker to the Rectory of Cheltenham took place this month. The "Examiner" of January 28th says: "We stated, some twelve months ago, that the Rectory of Cheltenham had been purchased of the late lay impropiators, Messrs. Newman and Gwinnett, for the sum of £500, with the intention of it.

being vested in the hands of Simeon's Trustees, the patrons of the living. The purchase having been completed, the final arrangements have been carried out in the course of the past week—Mr. Walker having formally resigned his Perpetual Curacy into the hands of the Bishop, and having also been formally appointed by the patrons, and instituted by the Bishop, to the Rectory of Cheltenham. The usual form of "reading in" will have to be gone through in due course at the Parish Church, and the transfer will then be finally completed. By these proceedings, the anomalous state of things which has existed in the parish now for some six hundred years will be at last put an end to. We read in "Goding's History," now about being published, that very handsome endowments for the maintenance of the "mother church of Cheltenham" have existed as far back as the Saxon era; but that the estates, which would now yield a very large income, have been, from time to time, alienated to secular uses. We presume there are no means of recovering for the Rectory these alienated revenues; but that the "Rector" in future, as the "Incumbent" of past years, will have to content himself with his *stipend* of "forty pounds a-year," with the addition of the church "fees" and the voluntary "offerings" of his parishioners."

1863. February 10. Great demonstration of Liberal Electors at English's Riding School. Nearly 1000 voters sat down to dinner, and afterwards speeches were delivered by Col. Berkeley, M.P., Sir Wm. Russell, M.P., Admiral Crowdy, and others.

1863. February. Obituary.—In our obituary to-day we regret to announce the death of Mrs. Eliza Odella Taylor, widow of the Rev. James Taylor, for so many years Incumbent of Clifton, which took place on Thursday last, at St. Alban's House, Cheltenham. Mrs. Taylor was the daughter of the famous Irish orator, the Right Hon. Philpot Curran, Master of the Rolls, and she possessed no small share of her father's wit and humour. It was of her sister (the betrothed of the ill-fated Emmett, executed for his share in the abortive insurrection) Moore wrote the touching melody—

"She is far from the land, where her young hero sleeps."

The remains of this gifted lady were conveyed from Cheltenham to Clifton yesterday (Tuesday) for interment in the Crypt, there to rest "with the smell of that mould which nourishes the violets." The funeral was remarkable only for its simplicity, and included the attendance of George Downing, George Simpson, and Samuel Harley Bushell, Esqrs. "Examiner," Feb. 11.

1863. February. Good Investment.—A document with a curious history was brought to our office this week, being a bond dated March 5, 1811, under which the then Improvement Commissioners borrowed the sum of £400 of a Mr. Ebenezer Bradshaw, M.D., securing to him in return an annuity of £38 a-year, during the life of a party named by him. Mr. Bradshaw being evidently a far-seeing man, selected as his nominee a healthy lad of 14 years of age, and at once insured the lad's life in the Equitable Assurance Office for the amount of his loan, £400. The premium charged by the Equitable was £8 per annum; so that Mr. Bradshaw got a clear £30 a-year by the transaction, or 7½ per cent. on his £400, with a certainty of the money being repaid to him by the Insurance Office whenever the death of his nominee caused the cessation of the annuity. Nor was this the whole benefit accruing from his foresight. The lad on whose life the annuity was granted did not die until the month of January, 1863, so that Mr. Bradshaw or his representatives had been receiving 7½ per cent. on the loan for upwards of half a century; and on sending in their claim on the Equitable it was found that the accruing profits had swelled the original £400 assured up to the very handsome sum of £1,684; the bonuses from 1811 to 1849 being £920, and from 1849 to 1863 a further sum of £364. It is not often a man has the good fortune to

invest his money at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for 50 years, and then to find the original sum, as in this case, more than quadrupled in amount. The five Commissioners signing the original deed, in 1811, were Hugh H. Williams, (Dissenting minister); John Bowles Watson, (Manager of the Theatre); Thomas Munster, (Surgeon); William Stone; and Richard White. "Examiner," Feb. 18.

1863. February 19. The Rectory of Cheltenham. This day, the Rev. E. Walker, went through the formal ceremony of Induction to the Rectory of Cheltenham. The new Rector was met at the Parsonage House, and accompanied to the Church by a number of his parishioners; among whom were the following:—The Rev. W. Hodgson, (Incumbent of St. Peter's), Rev. H. Hayman, (Head Master of the Grammar School), Rev. W. W. Gedge; Messrs. R. B. Hudleston and D. J. Humphris, (Churchwardens), and J. Fisher and W. Hasell, (late Churchwardens); W. N. Skillicorne, Esq., (Chairman of the Bench of Magistrates), W. H. Gwinnett, Esq., (one of the late lay rectors), R. S. Lingwood, Esq., (Lord of the Manor), and Mr. Geo. Parsonage, (High Bailiff); G. W. Welch, E. Armitage, N. Hartland, J. B. Winterbotham, T. G. Palmer, J. Fallon, Baynham Jones, and R. S. Jupp, Esqrs.; Dr. Wright and Dr. Newman; and Messrs. A. Shirer, sen., A. Paul, J. Williams, C. H. Hale, H. Davies, J. Goding, W. George, R. J. Tanner, W. Boodle, R. F. Marshall, Geo. Hulbert, and G. Norman. On arriving at the southern entrance to the church, the door was found closed; the key being handed to Mr. Walker, he opened the door and entered with the churchwardens and the attendant clergymen. Closing and locking the door behind them, the Rector then advanced to the bell rope, which had been purposely lengthened so as to reach the floor; he swung the bell three or four times, and then returning to the southern entrance, re-opened the door and allowed the parishioners who were waiting outside to enter. The procession then advanced to the chancel, where the necessary documents were read and subscribed to. Mr. Walker then addressed the assembly congregated within the building, and expressed a hope now that one crooked thing in the history of the parish had been put straight, other things would be put straight also. He was not without hope that the state of affairs which had existed in the parish during the past two or three years—the congregation worshipping in two separate buildings—would, with God's blessing, be put an end to; and that, ere long, steps would be taken to bring the whole of the congregation under one roof. On Sunday, the 22nd, the new Rector read himself in at the Parish Church during morning service, and in the evening made the necessary statutory declarations of his assent and adhesion to the thirty-nine articles and the Book of Common Prayer, and afterwards preached the sermon to a very large congregation. In reference to the Rector's observations respecting the bringing of the two congregations—one worshipping at the Parish Church, and the other at the Temporary Church—under one roof, we may state that the Rector had previously foreshadowed to the parishioners who met him at the Rectory, before the ceremony, his ideas with regard to the enlargement, restoration, or rebuilding of the Parish Church; and after eliciting the views of his visitors in a brief friendly discussion, it was unanimously resolved by those present, and whose names are above given, to form themselves into a provisional committee, with a view to test the general feeling of the parishioners as to the possibility and desirability of carrying this object into effect.

February 19. Death of Lord Sudeley. We have to announce the death of the Right Hon. Lord Sudeley, of Toddington, near Cheltenham, which event took place at Pau, Basses Pyrenees, on Thursday, the 19th inst., in his 63rd year. His lordship was born in February, 1801; and married, in 1831, Emma Elizabeth Alicia, second daughter of George Hay Dawkins Pennant, Esq., of Penrhyn Castle, Carnarvonshire. By her, who survives him, he leaves five sons



and five daughters. His eldest son, Sudeley Charles George, Captain Grenadier Guards, born in 1837, succeeds to the title and estates. By the death of the noble lord the lieutenancy of the county of Montgomery becomes vacant. We understand the funeral arrangements of the deceased nobleman, like those of his late father, are confided to Messrs. Debenham, Son, and Freebody, of this town. Mr. Freebody was at Toddington on Saturday, superintending the hanging of the church with black cloth, and yesterday he started for Dover, there to meet the remains of the deceased lord, and accompany them to Gloucestershire. The funeral, which will be in every respect suited to his lordship's rank, is expected to take place on an early day in the ensuing week. "Examiner," Feb. 25.

[The Publisher would feel obliged by any errors or omissions in the foregoing Chronology being kindly notified to him, with a view to their correction in a future edition of the work now preparing for publication.]

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# ADVERTISEMENTS.

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